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密勒氏
評論報

June 1953

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REVIEW TO CLOSE

THE *Review* will cease publication with the next issue. Never a "money maker," the magazine has had hard sledding ever since we resumed publication following the end of World War II. During these past eight years, we have made up its periodic deficits out of the profits of our other publishing activities, but today they are no longer sufficient to meet the increasing drain occasioned by the *Review's* steady losses.

The inflation and general dislocation in post-war Kuomintang China made anything more than a hand-to-mouth existence impossible. Following the liberation and the resultant stabilization of economic and social life in China things began to pick up. However, the deteriorating international situation (well more than half of our circulation is now overseas) soon raised new difficulties.

The short-lived Kuomintang blockade of the China coast—the periodic interference with the mail between China and America by the US post-office—Washington's embargo on trade with China—exchange restrictions by various foreign governments—open prohibition of the *Review* in some countries—all have presented problems.

Despite such difficulties we have managed to keep going and, in fact, have been able to get copies to readers fairly regularly in most foreign countries. Nothing whets readers' appetites and encourages editors like government interference. However, these successes have cost us heavily and the simple fact of the matter is that we can no longer stand

AFTER NEXT ISSUE

the burden. For a private publishing firm the ledger is an exorable thing.

Naturally, we have given a lot of thought to this step. No one regrets the closure of the *Review* more than we. However, there just isn't any "angle" we can figure and if we waited any longer we would be in danger of just collapsing, without any opportunity to say our good-byes. By closing now, we can do so in an orderly and business-like manner. Subscribers in China will be refunded for the unpaid portions of their subscriptions. For subscribers abroad, we propose to settle accounts with a premium, a volume of woodcuts.

While regretting the necessity to close none the less, we can take some satisfaction from the fact that we have been able to keep the *Review* going during these past few years. With the major portion of the Western press dedicated to the service of the modern-day robber barons and therefore pursuing a policy of distortion and invention designed to heighten international tensions and whip up a world-wide anti-China hysteria, the *Review,* we believe, has made a worthwhile contribution in presenting the *facts* about new China, in telling the exciting and important story of the new civilization abuilding in this ancient land.

WE'RE already starting to lay out the next—and last—issue of the *Review* and trust that it will be one of our better ones—a nice fat farewell number.

—The editors

LETTERS
From the People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of the *China Monthly Review*.

Preventing Blindness

To the Editor:

Until recently, I never realized the fact that the sure way to prevent epidemics is to alert the people, and mobilize them to combat the danger. Due to the influence of the old social order, I thought that healing was more important than prevention.

In the Yunmin Blind and Deaf School, where I studied a year ago, many of my unfortunate schoolmates had become disabled as a result of acute encephalitis and smallpox. Before liberation, we all considered ourselves the victims of a cruel fate. Most of our parents took us to crude doctors, or to idols for help, with the result that our eyesight and hearing are gone beyond recovery.

Now I know that prevention is the important thing. Had we been born in this new era, we would not have lost our blessings.

One who is not in good health can have no good prospect for serving the people wholeheartedly. I always feel abashed when I consider the condition of my health. A four-hour speech, or hours of preparing lessons leave me giddy and weak.

I often think of what hardships our Volunteers in Korea have to face, and am depressed because of my physical weakness. In the past, Chinese people neglected physical health as they looked down on physical labor, but this thought is seriously criticized today. We must learn preventive hygiene, and combine it with our work and sport, to develop sound body as well as sound mind.

This is the preliminary requirement of serving the people wholeheartedly.

CHEN CHEN-KUO

Kunming

University Student

To the Editor:

I am a freshman at Peking University and feel it fortunate that I can study here. We have many books in the school library, many laboratories with good equipment, fine buildings, big athletic fields and unsurpassed scenery on the campus. All of this is of great help in our studying here.

Our professors are interested in teaching us and they are eager to get suggestions from the students in order to improve their teaching methods.

Although we keep quite busy with our studies, there is time for relaxation. We have dances, attend movies and concerts and have other social activities. Also, every morning we have physical training and games for an hour in the afternoon.

Many foreign visitors from capitalist and colonial countries have expressed their admiration for our school life. Once, a member of a student delegation from abroad told us that he wished he were a Chinese undergraduate.

All of us here, living and studying in

such good surroundings, feel that we must continue to study hard so as to play our part in national reconstruction after we graduate.

TUNG HUANG-SUN

Peking

English Language

To the Editor:

In order to cultivate the study of the English language, two English departments, those of Lanchow University and Northwest Teachers' College, were recently amalgamated into the English Department of Northwest University.

After liberation, there were many teachers and students who deemed the English language not useful. Some even said it should not be studied, as it is the imperialists' language. This line of thinking is quite mistaken; they do not understand the importance of this language.

Prior to liberation, many students studied English with the aim of making money; this compradore attitude was entirely wrong. Now, our attitude toward the study of this language is quite different; we study English in

New Textile Mills

To the Editor:

In the old China the textile industry was limited to the big coastal cities. The other day I read an item which stated that within a little more than a year six modern textile mills are now in full operation, part of the plan to meet the growing demand for cotton goods all over China. The mills are located in Harbin, Wuhan, Tihwa, Chengchow, Sian and Hantan in Hopei province.

The six newly-built mills (four of them are entirely equipped with China-made machinery) have three common characteristics. They all contain modern mechanical installations having high productive power. For example, in the Harbin mill, the gigantic bleaching and impregnating plants are controlled by push-button devices.

Good working conditions prevail in all these mills. Buildings are made of concrete and steel, with spraying, ventilating and heating systems installed. Workers and office staff, both married and single, have comfortable living quarters complete with gardens, clinics and schools for children.

A shortcoming of the past has been done away with; the mills have been built in the cotton-producing areas and so are within easy reach of raw materials as well as the rural markets which are steadily demanding more cotton goods. For example, the Chengchow Textile Mill is in the city of Chengchow which is near the raw cotton produced in great quantities in west and east Honan province.

LI MING-YUAN

Shanghai

order to serve the people and for peaceful construction in new China.

Immediately after liberation, there were students in the English department who changed to other departments. Now with the newly amalgamated department, we feel that our present Department of English is better than ever in every respect. We, students and teachers, shall do our best to promote the study of English.

CHIH HAN-LIN

Sian

Bigger Harvest

To the Editor:

The honorable title "Nation's top abundant harvest county" was shared last year by three counties, one of which was Liling, in Hunan province, called the rice bowl of China. Last year, the peasants of Hunan produced such a bumper grain crop as was never seen before, amounting to 3,188 yi (a yi is a hundred million catties). Other crops were up as much as 59 percent.

The peasants of Liling can hardly be praised enough. Thirty-two villages created the record of 1,000 catties of rice per mou; according to incomplete statistics, 21,095 households each harvested more than this stupendous amount, and the Tzung F'ang-fu mutual-aid team took the lead with its average of 1,294 catties of rice per mou. Model farm worker Dun Kuang-tsing broke the national record and set a new record of 1,650 catties and 12 ounces per mou.

Farm heroes have greatly expedited the organization of mutual-aid teams, of which there are now 541, with 6,444 provisional mutual-aid teams, exceeding half of all the farm laborers in Liling. These teams not only helped thousands of peasants to overcome their difficulties, but also pointed the way for permanent cooperation.

The Liling people's government scientifically trained over 2,800 capable farmers who, in turn, helped organize the mutual-aid and cooperative movement.

On state farms, night schools and lantern slides have been used to publicize modern farming techniques.

SPRING IN

To the Editor:

I am enclosing a report written by a former Shanghailander, who is now in Tihwa, the capital of the far northwestern province of Sinkiang.

HSU PEI-CHANG

Shanghai

THE Spring Festival is approaching. It is our first year so far north, therefore our first Spring Festival on snow-covered ground, glittering brilliantly in the spring sunshine. Branches of the trees in West Park are budding beneath the snow, and the Urumu River is transparent.

Snow brings added beauty to the quiet, antique pavilions, the West Grand Bridge and the Cave of Webs at the foot of Magic Hill. This is the place where, according to a famous novel, two humans once wandered around bewitched.

The people of different nationalities along the river banks are preparing to celebrate the Spring Festival, no less joyous than their Han brethren. All inhabitants, civilians and army men; men and women; young and old are happily clearing the streets of accumulated snow. With sweating and smiling faces, they load the trucks and carts.

During these several days, the

With improved skill comes increased working enthusiasm. Families formerly dressed in rags are now spick and span; thatched cottages are now well-furnished. This is true especially of the Tzung F'ang-fu mutual-aid team, which has bought more livestock and tools, and started building five new houses for its members last September; these houses were ready for their new hosts before the snow fell. The team subscribed to two newspapers, and drew up a winter plowing plan, in the hopes of growing a still bigger harvest this year.

YANG FUNG-I

Liling First Middle School, Hunan

FAR-OFF SINKIANG

streets are crowded; the shopping streets, especially, remind us who are from Shanghai of North Szechuen Road. Most up-to-date and attractive Soviet-style buses are running on the level asphalt roads. Trading companies, co-operative societies and privately owned shops are crowded with customers; markets in Chung Shan Road are selling fish, ducks, chickens and meat.

Those who have made their purchases emerge from the crowd smiling broadly. One old chap, carrying a big piece of meat, murmurs audibly to himself, "Since I came to Tihwa 30 years ago I have never been so happy. In the old days we could only look at the meat while our mouths watered. How could we get it?"

An old lady, toddling along under a load of purchases, and leading a little girl, says to me, "My comrade, perhaps you are from somewhere inside the Great Wall. I have heard from my home town, Lanchow, that trains are now running there. May the railroad soon be stretched to Tihwa! Then I can pay a visit to my old home with my granddaughter!"

THE big day finally arrives. Entrances to buildings, parks and compounds are gay with flowery arches bedecked with scrolls in Chinese and the Uighur language.

Representatives from various organizations have been deputed to families of martyrs and those in military service, to offer season's greetings. Scarlet posters honoring these homes are affixed to the front doors. Uighurs call at the homes of their Han comrades in the early morning to offer greetings. They shake hands ,enthusiastically, fully showing the friendship that exists among the different nationalities

Songs are broadcast by radio as well as from loud-speakers on cars in the streets. Although it is snowing slightly in 20 degrees of frost, crowds are strolling through the streets. Some shops are closed, but not the fruit shops. Hami melons and apples are in great demand.

All government organizations hold evening meetings and parties, where many excellent performances have been shown. The Frontier Tribes Dances are greeted with great enthusiasm. Although far from home, we from East China feel not the slightest lonesomeness here; warmth is everywhere in the big family of our country. We know the Spring Festival in Shanghai was a happy time; it is no less so here on the frontier.

Identical Cousins

To the Editor:

It is almost amazing that languages which have developed separately for thousands of years can be intertranslated without artificial construction of phrases. Even more amazing is that well-known phrases from a European language should have an identical cousin in the Chinese countryside.

The North Kiangsu people do not say that a child's eyes are bigger than his stomach, but that he has a "big mouth, small gullet." Things are not six of one and half a dozen of the other, but "half a catty; eight ounces." The Chinese house rat is as supersensitive as the European scupper rat. While the latter leaves a ship at the last port of call before it sinks, the former leaves a house three days before it burns.

S. R. H.

Shanghai

Special Diet

To the Editor:

You may be interested in knowing how a private factory in Shanghai looks after its workers.

At the stroke of one, bells ring in the Hwa Sun Electrical Instrument factory, the public-address system sounds off with its theme song, "Steel Worker," and the several hundred workers lay down their tools and stream into the dining hall.

In another corner of the factory two white-clad, white-capped cooks are busy in the special diet kitchen. In the dining-room, three tables are set for eight persons apiece, the rice in the bowls shining white and the dishes hissing hot. A glance at today's dishes—chicken in brown sauce, fried fish, onion steak and green vegetables, with boiling-hot three-delicacy soup—brings a gleam of satisfaction to all eyes. A large basket of oranges is also served.

This kitchen was established last June under the sponsorship of the factory trade union. Workers not in the most robust of health are entitled to its benefits for periods of from one to three months, which has meant a gain in weight of as much as 16 pounds, and a decline in sick absence.

Two full meals are served daily, as well as a light breakfast of soy-bean milk and wheat biscuits. The menu is under doctors' supervision, and consists of a full variety of meat, including liver, vegetables and fruits in season, and eggs. Great attention is paid to cleanliness of food and utensils.

Most of the expense is borne by the trade union, under labor insurance coverage. The workers pay the same as for general meals. All this is quite in contrast to conditions before liberation, when no provision whatever was made for workers' meals.

LIN HSIANG CHOW

Shanghai

Indian Reader

To the Editor:

I am in receipt of your Review for March 1953. It is as excellent and interesting as ever.

Here in this country the Yankees are as thick as bugs on an infested bed, fouling it all with the British. Pakistan is to go into M.E.D.O.! War is on the doorstep of India! Against this background it is so heartening to read about the renaissance in China.

N. S. I.

Bengal, India

The Month in Review

- *New Korean Peace Offer*
- *500 Million Customers*

New Korean Peace Offer

ONCE again China and North Korea have taken the initiative to end the war in Korea. In addition to agreeing to Mark Clark's February 22 proposal on exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war, they have called for resumption of the Panmunjom talks with a view to settling the last obstacle to peace in Korea—the overall prisoner of war question—thus bringing renewed hope to a long anxious world.

On March 30, prior to the conclusion of the agreement on sick and wounded prisoners, Premier Chou Enlai set the stage for a quick end to the Korean war by making a new offer for settling the entire prisoner question.

The Chinese premier's offer was a clear concession—before this the Chinese and Korean side had proposed an immediate cease-fire, with all remaining issues left for post-armistice negotiation and settlement. Washington turned this down with the result that the fighting and killing continued. Premier Chou's new proposal called for a cease-fire to be immediately followed by repatriation of all prisoners who insist upon repatriation and temporary internment of the remaining prisoners by a neutral country so as to ensure a just solution to the question of their repatriation.

For months the American negotiators have held up a Korean settlement on the grounds, in direct violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949, that some Chinese and Korean prisoners "refuse repatriation."

The Koreans and Chinese, however, have again stated in their latest proposal that they do not acknowledge there are prisoners of war who are unwilling to be repatriated.

Chou En-lai stated: "It is only because the termination of the bloody war in Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is bound up with the question of peace and security of the people of the Far East and the world that we take this new step and propose that after the cessation of hostilities, those captured personnel of our side who, under the intimidation and oppression of the opposite side, are filled with apprehensions and are afraid to return home, be handed over to a neutral state and that explanations be given them by the side concerned, thus ensuring that the question of their repatriation will be justly settled and will not obstruct the realization of an armistice in Korea."

WORLD-WIDE reaction to the Chinese premier's proposal to end the Korean war was highly favorable. While Wall Street operators watched the "new lows reached . . . during the peace offensive selloff" (**Reuter**, New York, April 2), the world at large was hopeful that the last barrier to a peaceful solution of the Korean war had been removed.

500 Million Customers

THE latest Sino-Soviet economic agreement, among other things, serves to emphasize two significant facts: First, the American-inspired Western embargo on trade with China has failed to cripple this country's economy. On the contrary, even though trading has been restricted chiefly to the Soviet Union and the people's democracies of Eastern Europe, China's foreign commerce has expanded phenomenally during the past four years. Second, the West is hurting only itself by turning its back on the China market, which today is already larger than ever before.

The expanding trade among China, the Soviet Union and the Eastern European democracies—reflecting, as it does, the rapid increase of industrial and agricultural output in these countries—is proof that America has failed in its attempts to "starve out" this half of the world. In fact, this policy of economic "containment" has actually backfired, as can be seen from the increasing economic dislocations observable in the Western countries themselves. The facts and figures of the expanding economies of the Eastern nations and the shrinking economies of the Western nations are widely reported, even in official United Nations publications. Those really injured by the embargo have been the embargoers.

For years Western businessmen have talked about the great "potentials" of the China market and have painted a rosy picture of the trade that would be possible once China got on her feet. More than one foreign merchant used to figure what it would mean if every Chinese were able to add only one inch to the length of his shirt or trouser cuffs. An American newspaperman, Carl Crow, even wrote a book called "Four Hundred Million Customers."

Today China is on her feet as never before. The Chinese people have not bothered about lengthening their shirts and pants, since they are too busy buying whole new suits, while the "Four Hundred Million" are now closer to "Five Hundred Million."

The "great day" has finally arrived. China's imports and exports are reaching figures never before thought possible. Silk, tea, eggs, soy beans, tung oil, rice, minerals, vegetable oils and an increasing quantity of manufactured goods are being exported to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Trucks, radios, generators, machine tools and a host of other industrial products are being imported in ever growing numbers from these same countries.

However, this is not a closed market. There is room for all who want to trade, as shown by the official announcement that China is ready to trade with any country at any time on equal terms. Recently, some nations not previously engaged in the China trade, such as Chile and Ceylon, have entered this market and found it eminently satisfactory. Ceylon, for example, has discovered a steady and dependable market for its rubber at better prices than those obtainable in the West. At the same time, it has found in China an adequate source of high quality rice at prices considerably below prevailing world market quotations.

In the light of such facts, the Eisenhower administration's announced determination to continue and tighten the West's ban on trade with China once again proves the aptness of the old adage about "cutting off one's nose to spite one's face."

THE PRESS AT WORK

AMERICAN reporters in Japan recently found themselves over something of a barrel when they had to cover the arrival of 4,000 Japanese returning home after many years' residence in China.

The trouble (for the reporters) began when the repatriates, almost to a man, had nothing bad to say about life in "Communist" China. Obviously it would never do to report such a story "straight" since it would amount to about 4,000 contradictions of everything the reporters have been writing about China from their Tokyo "listening post" for the past four years.

On the other hand, the event could not be ignored since the repatriation was a big story in Japan. (So many Japanese reporters boarded the repatriation ships that in the ensuing confusion many discovered that they were interviewing each other.)

How this impasse was solved is indeed instructive. The **United Press**, apparently able to find only one repatriate who said he didn't like life in China, hysterically cried that it was all a "Red plot" to sabotage democracy in Japan, warning that "Communist converts repatriated by Peking will instill new blood into the enfeebled Red movement in Japan."

The **New York Times** correspondent, however, approached the "problem" from another angle. Although stating that the repatriates exhibited "mixed emotions," he apparently could not find even the one critic turned up by **United Press** (which might lead one to suspect that perhaps **UP** ran into the same difficulty as did the Japanese reporters and that the one anti-China report resulted from one **UP** correspondent interviewing another **UP** man).

However, the absence of a quotable critic didn't stump the **Times'** reporter who, after quoting at some length the story of a man who said he liked things in China very well, tacked on his own "scholarly" interpretation. "The obvious principal concern of those who returned was the possible effect of anything they might have to say on fellow Japanese still behind the bamboo curtain."

Thus, readers in America, thanks to the astuteness of reporters of such organizations as **United Press** and the **New York Times**, are able to get an accurate picture of conditions in China. If it weren't for such clear-minded analysts, readers might naively have assumed that these 4,000 eyewitness brought home a favorable report on life here.

◆

COVER PICTURE

A Year of Abundance — by Li Chun

REORGANIZATION OF CHINA'S COLLEGES

— *an interview with* TSAO WEI-FENG —

A BASIC difference between a university in new China and one in old China is that the nation today wants highly trained specialists who can participate in the present vast construction work, while in the past there was no plan for fitting college graduates in with the country's needs. Schools now are divided into three groups: 1) primary and middle schools to raise the educational level of the people; 2) technical schools and colleges for training personnel for construction work; 3) universities and academies for the advancement of science.

One of the characteristics of the old higher education was that when the student received his diploma he found himself inadequately prepared for the practical aspects of life in China. Many of the professors were returned students from the US and Europe. Their material referred to foreign countries and in civil engineering, for instance, scarcely ever was an example from China used. One result was that Chinese students often were better informed on conditions and developments in the West than they were on conditions in their own country.

Still another characteristic was that the importance of pure learning and the academic value of the work were emphasized, to the extent of slighting the political problems China was confronted with. Students were urged to ignore current developments in China.

The situation has changed greatly today. Since the founding of the new government the groundwork has been laid for the First Five-Year Plan for national construction, which goes into effect this year. The nation needs large numbers of well-trained and qualified specialists of all grades. For this the colleges and universities must have many more students. In addition, there must be better equipment and teaching staffs, something the old schools were unable to provide as they gave only general training.

In the old universities the large majority of the students came from upper and middle class families. These students were free to choose their own subjects and also their own jobs—which meant freedom to have no job in many cases. Factories and businesses were comparatively small and an engineer, for example, had to be a veritable Jack-of-all-trades to be able to find a job. In new China the national economic structure is on a much larger scale and many engineers are needed in one organization and many specially trained people are needed for each department.

THE recent reorganization of China's universities is closely connected with the nation's needs. Every student enroling in a university today knows there is a job waiting for him when he graduates. For those taking the special two-year courses, there is a job waiting in two years' time.

One of the chief reasons for the reorganization is to provide better teachers and equipment in order to train more specialists. Because of the need for qualified personnel, and their future responsibility, college students must thoroughly master their studies. Therefore, efficiency in teaching is necessary. Most students graduating today have better records than did their predecessors.

In old China, the institutes of higher learning were clustered in a few big cities, many on or near the coast. For example, Shanghai alone had 20 percent of the country's colleges and universities before liberation. Prior to the reorganization last summer, there were in the East China area 18 universities and many colleges containing two or more schools within them. (An old Kuomintang regulation stated that one university must have three colleges). Before reorganization most colleges had no definite plan for training personnel and standards were quite low. The missionary universities—although better looking from the outside —were not very well provided with equipment or teaching staffs.

TSAO WEI-FENG (曹未風), Deputy Director of the Higher Education Department of East China, has held a number of teaching and editorial positions in China. He was formerly in charge of the editorial department of Commercial Press, and is one of China's leading authorities on Shakespeare. In 1938 and 1939 he attended King's College, at London University.

As a result of the recent reorganization every college and university in China now has a definite purpose—to provide the nation with certain kinds of specialists. For instance, Chiaotung University in Shanghai prior to reorganization had colleges of engineering, science, and business management. There were departments for technical, electrical, civil, hydraulic, building and aviation engineering. To provide facilities for each department the school needed great varieties of equipment. In Shanghai alone there were seven electrical engineering departments scattered among different schools. Following reorganization all seven have been put into Chiaotung University and they now have a much larger staff and better equipment and can handle many more students than formerly.

Previously, St. John's University in Shanghai, in its college of science, had a mathematics department which consisted of four students, one professor and two assistants. There were altogether six departments of mathematics in different schools in Shanghai. Now, the six have been reorganized into two departments—one in the East China Teachers' University and the other at Fuhtan University. The former will train middle school teachers and the latter will turn out research students in mathematics. Before, all six departments had less than 200 students in all. This term, at Fuhtan alone, there are more than 200, including over 100 freshmen.

Under conditions prevailing before reorganization only 19,000 students could have enrolled as freshmen in engineering, throughout all China. However, following last year's reorganization, there are 30,000 new engineering students.

All private universities have been taken over by the government since they could not meet the heavy financial demands brought on by new China's needs, and the unstable income for private schools endangered the quality of teaching. By taking over these universities, including missionary-run ones, the quality of teaching received by the nation's future technicians and administrators has been protected.

Every school has a specific aim. In all of East China, the nation's largest single administrative unit, there are four universities as compared with the previous 18, which will provide the nation with research workers in science, and also a portion of the middle school teachers. Then there are a teachers' university and seven teachers' colleges to meet all middle school needs.

There are also some special colleges newly established in

Nanking to cope with water conservancy (hydro-engineering) and forestry needs. In Shanghai, one chemical engineering college has been formed out of five former engineering colleges. In specialized schools such as these the director is a specialist. Professor Yen Kai, who was well-known before liberation and served as chief engineer on the KMT's Yellow River Flood Control Bureau which could accomplish nothing during Kuomintang days, is now director of the Nanking school. Professor Chang Chiang-shu, a well-known chemist, is in charge of the chemical engineering school. Only through a reorganization like this, can a school have a director who thoroughly knows his work.

Throughout East China there has been a general consolidation of universities and colleges along lines listed above. All fields have been encompassed, and the reorganization has made for a more equal distribution of institutes of higher education throughout the provinces. Before the reorganization there were 59 universities and colleges in East China, and Shanghai had 27 of them; now there are 53 in East China and Shanghai has 17.

The two basic reasons for the reorganization of China's universities and colleges are to meet the country's construction

Thousands of technicians are being trained for China's reconstruction program. Picture shows students at the technical school attached to the Chinese Changchun Railway in the Northeast studying construction of a locomotive.

needs and to improve the quality of teaching. Previously, the basic form of organization in the schools was the department. Now it is called the specialization. In one department there can be several specializations. For example, the department of physics has a nuclear specialization, and so forth. The chemistry department can have specializations in organic chemistry, applied chemistry, and so on. At Chiaotung University the mechanical engineering department has four specialities with 1,100 students and over 60 professors and teachers.

REORGANIZATION has meant a new outlook for professors in regard to their work. Professors lecturing on the same subject get together in small groups and work out a unified and common lecture which enables them to use more material and thus obtain a better result. Professors teach less hours than before, because they now have larger classes. This allows them to devote more time to preparation and research. A number of professors are making efforts to write new textbooks based on their lectures.

Before reorganization most professors knew very little about their students' study habits, and cared even less about how the students got on. Today much attention is paid to this aspect of university and college life. As a result of reforms in teaching

Group study and discussions are a common form of study in new China. Picture shows students of North China People's Revolutionary College studying together.

methods and in discussion groups, as well as their own self-criticism and student criticism, the level of teaching has been substantially raised.

Professors now have a much greater sense of responsibility toward their teaching and their students. It is common now for them to visit classes of other professors and to listen and give suggestions to their colleagues. It is recognized that the professor's responsibility does not end with the classroom lecture but it is carried through to see that the student masters what he has been taught.

In all colleges today students take courses in political science; new democracy in the first year and political economics and the basic works of Marx and Lenin in the second. There is a lecture every two weeks on current affairs and small discussion groups on current affairs every other week. These groups are made up of from 10 to 12 members.

The new system of teachers preparing lectures collectively is supplemented by mutual assistance among students. Students in large classes, for instance, go over in their small discussion groups many of the subjects taught in the classroom.

Because of the structure of the old educational system in China there was a dearth of middle school teachers. Before, in East China there were only four teachers' colleges; now there are eight. Enrollment has jumped from 1,700 students immediately after liberation to more than 10,000. The greatest need at present for China's rapidly developing education is for senior middle school teachers. Besides training primary school teachers to become middle school teachers, the government has also launched a determined drive to train teachers from the ranks of unemployed intellectuals.

Since last year all college students receive free tuition—with allowances for food and, in cases of need, funds are also supplied for family support. The only expenses for the majority are personal ones and books. Government workers and primary school teachers who have gone back to college for further training receive a set stipend each month at least equivalent to their regular salaries.

Present and future growth in the number of students has meant the need for more buildings. East China last year witnessed the enlargement of six colleges. This year will see the erection of five entirely new schools.

The curriculum in colleges and universities today is in some ways more difficult than in the past because the great construction projects require highly qualified personnel. The changed cur-

TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN

LIKE so many young workers in China, 22-year-old Shen Ho-chieh, until recently had something on his mind. The nation is just embarking on large-scale construction and the big question bothering young Shen was: "What can I do!" He had two skillful hands and a quick mind, but how to overcome the bonds to his working and creative ability set by a lack of general and technical knowledge?

Shen Ho-chieh learned his trade the hard way. Apprenticed while in his early teens, he had to sweep floors, empty spittoons and carry out various arduous tasks while learning to become a semi-skilled worker. After liberation, he got a job in a state factory and managed to attend a technical training night school.

Not very long ago Shen read in the newspaper that the government was opening regular technical schools and wanted students. He, together with about a dozen friends in his factory, rushed to register.

Today Shen Ho-chieh studies at the Shanghai Industrial School — one of three such schools in this largest city of China. Located just outside the city on the banks of the Whangpoo River, the school occupies the buildings which formerly housed the University of Shanghai, an "upper class" school run by American missionaries.

It is well-equipped in all ways. A four-story building contains the physics and chemistry laboratories; and its spacious campus, library, laboratories and gymnasium instead of being reserved exclusively for sons and daughters of the rich, are being used by more than 2,000 workers-and-farmers-turned-students.

Students here take a three-year intensive course. The first half is devoted chiefly to raising the level riculum has meant the preparation of new textbooks. Instead of translating from a foreign textbook, as was done in the past, new material based on the existing situation in China must be used. However, entrance examinations now are much more strict than before, when often as not a rich man's child could sail through because of the parent's position or influence.

Students of worker, peasant and army background are able to attend institutes of higher learning in large numbers for the first time in Chinese history. Many universities and colleges have attached to them short-term schools specially set up to enable students of worker and peasant families to join them in three years' time.

With the emphasis on constantly increasing university and college enrollment, middle school students are at a premium. Graduates now have a choice of 18 fields to study in at college.

The nation-wide reorganization of new China's colleges and universities has been made to meet the tremendous needs of a rapidly expanding economy. In accordance with an overall plan there is always a job waiting the student in his own field. The days are gone when only a handful of China's vast population could even dream of attending a college and, if fortunate, obtain a job in the field specialized in.

SHANGHAI

of their general knowledge, equivalent to that of a senior middle school student. The second half of the course will acquaint them with the rudiments and theory of industrial construction and techniques.

There is much to learn and all the students are hard-working. If one student is having difficulties with his studies, classmates will come to his aid; marks for examinations average above 80.

The students study hard but this does not mean all work and no play. Every afternoon the big athletic field is the scene of volleyball, soccer, basketball or track events.

The school has a workshop for training purposes during the regular course. After graduation, before being assigned jobs, students spend two and one-half months in factories outside the school to perfect their skill through actual on-the-job experience.

EXHIBITION SHOWS PEASANTS' LIFE

The End of Landlordism

SHIH SHAN-YANG

INSTRUMENTS of torture still stained with the blood of their victims, along with false scales and measures used by landlords to cheat the peasants, were among the many proofs of conditions in old China's countryside displayed at the Kiangsi Province Land Reform Exhibition.

Held in Nanchang, the exhibition was visited by 300,000 people from all over the province, who left with a vivid impression of the meaning of liberation and land reform for the average Chinese peasant.

The exhibition was held in five buildings. In the first, land-selling "contracts" were concrete and convincing evidence that landlords acquired their large tracts of land through trickery, usury, and out-and-out robbery. Land-rent contracts showed that the annual rent rate varied from 50 to 90 percent of the normal annual production of the rented land; the notorious "iron-plate" rent-rate required the tenant to pay 90 percent of the normal yearly production no matter how scanty the harvest in a lean year.

Scales used by landlords registered only 100 *catties* for a 120 or 150-*catty* load; bushel baskets had movable bottoms which could be lowered to increase the hold. Many such false measures were exhibited.

The hundreds of IOU's on display were evidence that a 100 percent annual interest rate was the rule. Some usurer-landlords even demanded a daily payment of interest in silver dollars. A peasant unable to repay his debt or even the interest, was forced to give up his small piece of land, or consent to the sale of his wife and children.

All this was possible, as the landlords were not only exploiters but also rulers, and decided among themselves who was to be made chief, so as best to serve their interests. A letter to this effect, from a landlord, was on display. A despot-landlord of Kiukiang could claim as his own the yearly-shifting flooded area of a lake, and thus gain more than 3,300 acres of land.

Hardship and starvation killed the peasants while still young—the landlords could live to a hoary old age, and receive, in "honor" of their longevity, lacquered wooden plates, gold-inscribed, from Chiang Kai-shek. These were also on display.

With political power in their hands, the landlord class summarily imprisoned and cruelly tortured tenants who failed to pay the land-rent. Among the numerous torture instruments was one in the form of a bench, on which the wretched victim was forced to kneel with his head through a hole. It had caused many deaths since it was first used during the Ming Dynasty, three centuries ago.

Backed as he was by the Kuomintang, the landlord was a law unto himself. A landlord caught in the act of stealing watermelons from a peasant, killed with a hand-drill the man he was robbing. Another landlord beat a peasant to death with a heavy weighing-stick, when the latter came to the rescue of his raped daughter. Many and hideous were the various murder weapons on display.

Ruthless exploitation coupled with political oppression reduced the peasants to the most wretched poverty. They eked out a miserable existence and often were forced to eat leaves, bark and grass; a single feast given by a landlord might cost as much as the living expenses of a family of three for 25 years.

The mink-lined silken gown, worth 13,200 pounds of rice, which had belonged to a landlord, hung close by a padded coat which had been worn by six generations of peasants. The cloth cover was gone; all that remained were clumps of grimy black cotton.

With the assistance of government workers, peasants measure out their land during land reform.

Everyone takes an interest in improving farm implements so that production can be increased.

THE second building dealt with the land reform in Kiangsi which started in 1928 when this area was the headquarters of the Chinese Red Army, and prosperity and happiness were brought to the Soviet area after fierce armed struggle with the Kuomintang landlords, and despite the difficulties caused by Chiang Kai-shek's blockade.

In 1935, after the Red Army had been forced to start its Long March, the Kuomintang government and landlords staged a comeback, and the earth was drenched with peasants' blood. Once again, poverty and misery reigned.

Evidence of these events was to be seen in the form of not only torture instruments and weapons used by the landlords against the peasants, but also weapons of the Red Army, documents of the Chinese Soviet Government, and banknotes issued by the Workers' and Peasants' Bank. In the old bases, these tokens of revolution had been kept in hiding by people at the risk of their lives.

The defeat of Chiang Kai-shek smashed the yoke of feudalism. In the winter of 1950, land reform was commenced throughout Kiangsi and was successfully completed in the spring of 1952.

During this upheaval, tens of thousands of peasants had taken action to frustrate the counter-revolution. Landlords and their hirelings concealed evidence and arms, set fire to houses and forests, forged passports, murdered government workers and even organized armed revolts. Exhibits of these activities were shown in Building 3.

MARRIAGE problems, and stories and statistics relating thereto, were explained in Building 4. Under feudalism, the landlord with his money and power turned peasant girls into his concubines and slave-girls.

The peasant, by contrast, was too poor to marry a grown woman, or too poor to support his daughter. All this resulted in a vast number of child-brides, who according to incomplete statistics, constituted almost half of the female population in one district.

Under new China's marriage law the practice of taking child brides is illegal; marriages are based on free choice. Money transactions, including extravagant wedding feasts, are disappearing.

The last building gave a round-up of the situation in the countryside, and showed increased production. With the output of rice in 1937 taken as 100, the figure for 1949 (the year of liberation) fell to 75, but by 1952 it had risen to 117. The corresponding figures for cotton are 100, 30, 400, and for flax, 100, 30, 200. The success of the movement to increase production not only provided the peasants with plenty of food and new clothing; it also assured the fulfilment of national reconstruction plans.

On the heels of economic and political liberation, culture and science have found their way into the countryside. During the four years since liberation, primary school registration has increased 300 percent, and the adult population is attending spare-time schools, where the rapid method of learning written Chinese is taught. A 65-year-old peasant woman perseveres at her studies in the evening class, though it means walking to school with the aid of a cane.

The peasants of some districts have set up their own acting groups, performing local operas which have a timely theme. With the help of professionals, some amateur actors, drawing on their actual experiences, have collaborated on a play dealing with the marriage law. The play has been published in the provincial journal written by and for worker and peasant readers.

Scientific farming methods —notably new threshing-machines — are replacing the old. The last and most encouraging exhibit is a model of an electrified collective farm, a symbol of the future.

The Old Silk Road

REWI ALLEY

FOR many centuries, from the third century B.C. on, the Old Silk Road, running through northwestern China to Central Asia, was one of the world's longest and most important trade routes. After the tenth century A.D., it became the chief highway for the Mongol horsemen of Genghis and the other Khans who controlled a vast empire, stretching from Europe to the China coast and including the capitals of Moscow and Peking.

First knowledge of the Old Silk Road dates back to the second century B.C. At that time there were two pastoral tribes living in what is now western Kansu province—the Yueh Chi and the Hsiung Nu. The Hsiung Nu were a warlike people who fought the Yueh Chi and defeated them, making the skull of their chief into a drinking cup. The Yueh Chi then left Kansu, travelling west to what is now the Soviet Union, and finally on to India.

The Hsiung Nu, later known as the Huns who swept across Europe, then began to give a lot of trouble to a Han Dynasty emperor. To quell them the emperor sent a mission to find the Yueh Chi and make an alliance.

The mission was headed by a man named Chang Ch'ien, who was captured by the Hsiung Nu. After being held a prisoner for some years, he escaped and continued his journey across what is now Sinkiang, through the Pamirs and down to the plains around the Caspian, where he found the Yueh Chi.

He found a great many other things too, including Chinese products that had been brought from Szechuen to India and through India to what is now the Soviet Union. Apparently people in many parts of the country were trading without the government knowing much about it and it is probable there had been many a traveller over the Old Silk Road before the official embassies started to use it.

Chang Ch'ien could not persuade the Yueh Chi to return and fight the Huns, but he discovered kingdoms, with Greek kings, that were rich and prosperous and which had magnificent horses. Now in those days a good horse meant as much in defense against aggression as a fast jet plane does today, and the Han government wanted to trade Chinese goods for horses.

But envoys were murdered and one thing led to another until a great Han army with its terrible crossbows—a Chinese invention that later came to Europe—moved west of the Pamirs. The line of fortifications it left in its wake stretched across deserts and mountains; towers and beacons, the precursors of the extensions to the Great Wall that ran beside them.

The Chinese General Li Kwang pitched his tents on ground that Alexander had camped on two centuries earlier. Behind him was the long road back into China, down to Ch'ang-an, in Shensi province—the modern Sian; a road that led over vast deserts, entailing immense hardships for the traveller, but a road which was garrisoned well enough to allow the great silk trade to develop so rapidly that China was known in Rome as "Serica"—the Land of Silk.

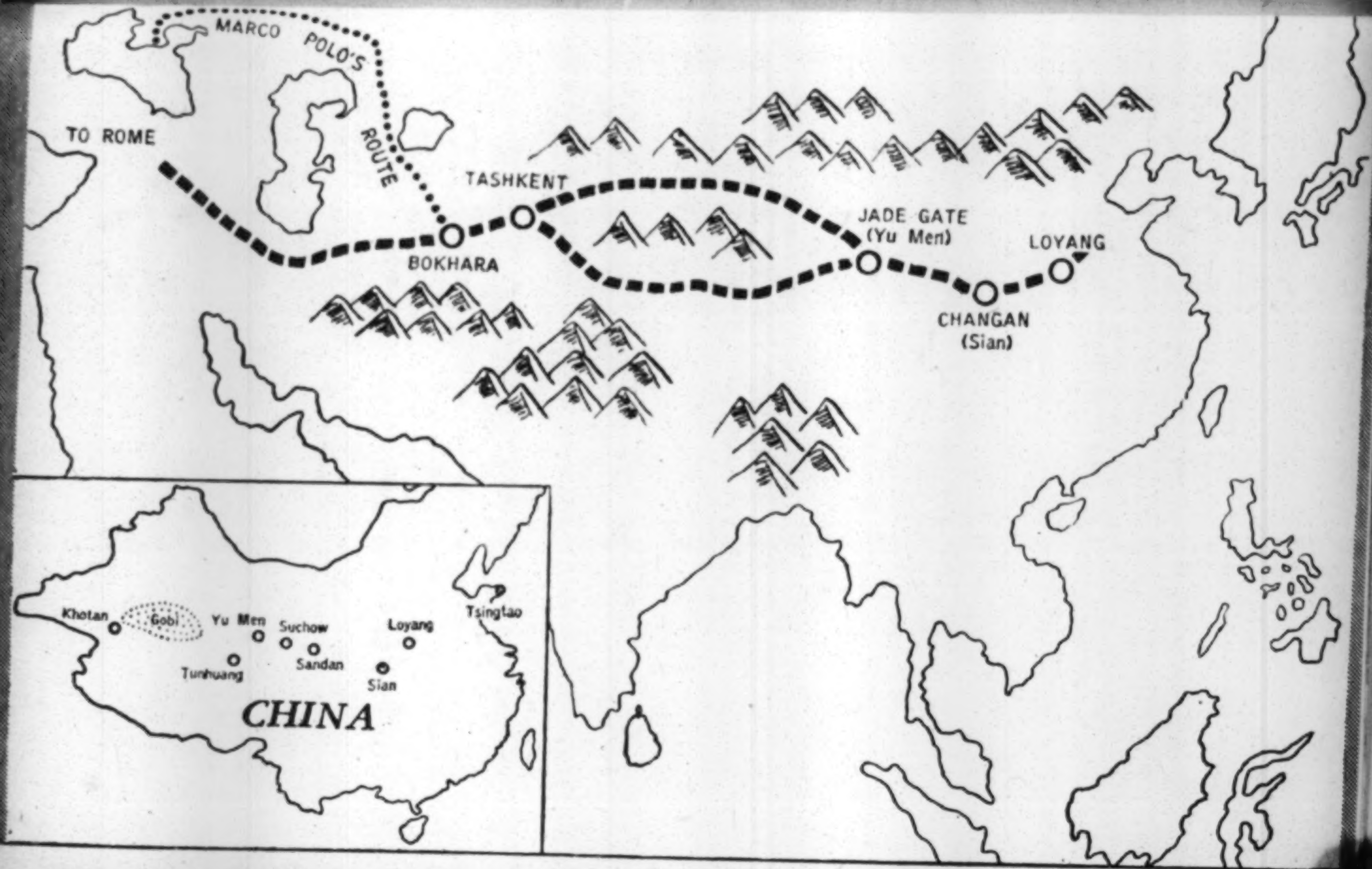
In this trade the Syrians were the middlemen and did a thriving business. The silks were most popular in Rome where the heavier ones were made into togas for the patricians while the fine gauzes were worn by the upper-class women to display their figures.

THE Old Silk Road was also an avenue for cultural exchange. Slow travel and large caravans must have encouraged long discussions on various systems of philosophy and there is no doubt that the ideas of early Chinese philosophers were commonly known to Central Asia in very early times.

In A.D. 260, Buddhist monks started to make pilgrimages on the Old Silk Road. Chu Shih-hsing did the journey in the relatively fast time of one year, travelling from Loyang in central China to Khotan in present-day Sinkiang in the extreme west.

He was followed by many others until, in the fifth century, the monk Fa Hsien went through India and returned to China

REWI ALLEY has spent more than 25 years in China. A New Zealander, he came to China as a young man shortly after the end of the first world war and has lived and worked here almost continuously ever since. For the past several years he has been headmaster of the Sandan Industrial Training School. This article is a chapter from his forthcoming book, "Stories Out of China."


MARCO POLO'S ROUTE
TO ROME
TASHKENT
BOKHARA
JADE GATE
(Yu Men)
LOYANG
CHANGAN
(Sian)
Khotan
Gobi
Yu Men
Suchow
Loyang
Tsingtao
Tunhuang
Sandan
Sian
CHINA

by sea via Ceylon and Java, reaching home through what is now the northern port of Tsingtao. It took him six years to get from Ch'ang-an to Central India and three years to get back by sea.

In 629 A.D., the monk Hsuan Chuang went to and returned from India by way of the Old Silk Road, the whole journey taking 14 years. His account of Samarkand as a very great and prosperous city is an interesting one. He talks of its craftsmen, its gardens, its wonderful horses. An English commentator remarks, "At that time, we must remember, there was hardly such a thing as a town in Anglo-Saxon England."

Down the Old Silk Road then went the embassies of China to the various states of India. One of these embassies, that of Wang Hsuan-te in the 7th Century A.D., got caught up in a change of kings and the clash of rival parties. He called in soldiers from Tibet and Nepal and put matters to rights according to his own ideas, which was the only instance of military intervention in India in all the long history of relations between India and China.

The next three centuries saw much cultural exchange between India and China by means of this old road. In modern times explorers from the west came over this road. Back down it they took the historic murals and treasures from the famous cave temples near Tunhuang that date back 1,600 years. For many years prior to the second world war, the best maps one could buy of areas along the Old Silk Road were those issued by the war office of the colonial (British) government of India, made by its own surveyors.

In the early days of trade between China and the outside world Greek kings ruled in many places in Central Asia. It has been suggested that even as far back as the days of Alexander, detachments from Greek armies explored part of the Old Silk Road.

Be this as it may, there is certainly a very fascinating story told by Arab travellers during the T'ang Dynasty, of how they came to the city of Sandan, in west Kansu, then called Sandabil. In those days, Sandan, though a thousand miles west of the real Chinese capital, Ch'ang-an, was a kind of advance capital —a starting point for trade.

One Abu Dulaf Nisar al-Muhalhil, writing of his travels in A.D. 940, says:

"We then arrived at the Gate (Chia Yu Kwan) Station; a town among the sands where the guards are who serve the King of China. This is the place where one must ask for authorization to enter the country of China when one comes from the Turkish tribes or from elsewhere. In this champaign we travelled three days, receiving hospitality in the King's name and changing mounts at each parasang.

"And so we came to the valley of the Station. This is the place from which permission was asked for us to enter China, the ambassadors (with whom we were travelling) having gone on before.

"Finally the authorization came; we had awaited it in that valley which is the most beautiful and magnificent of all the countries of Allah, enjoying the King's hospitality.

"After leaving the valley and travelling for a whole day, we came to a place from which we could see Sandabil, the capital of China and the seat of Government. We passed the night a day's march from the city and next day we reached it at nightfall. It has 60 streets, each leading to the government palace and the city is so large it takes the whole day to walk round it. At one of the city gates we noted that the wall was 90 ells both in breadth and height.

"Now, upon the summit of the ramparts, there is a large stream which divides into 60 branches. Each of these flows towards one of the gates, meeting first a water mill which lets the water flow underneath it and then another which lets it flow away along the ground. Finally half the water is conducted out of the city to irrigate gardens, while the other half is directed into the city furnishing water to the inhabitants of each street (through which it passes) right to the Government palace (at which the street ends). Then (the water) passes to the opposite street and (eventually) flows out of the city.

"Each street has thus two streams flowing in opposite directions. The stream from the outside of the city to the inside brings drinking water while that flowing in the opposite direction carries away the ordure of the inhabitants. . . ."

Atop the walls of the present-day city of Sandan are the remains of water conduits, while lead-offs down the sides of the walls also exist. Water still flows through the streets.

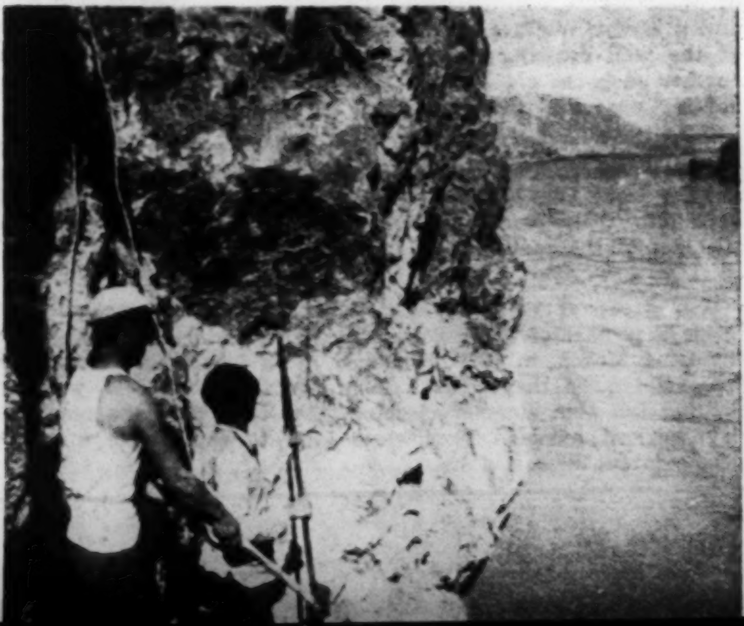
Along the Old Silk Road came men of many nations and many types; images of them may still be seen in the old temples that are dotted up and down the road. The streets of Ch'angan, the modern Sian, were thronged with Persians, and Turks from as far west as Constantinople. Red-haired, blue-eyed people mixed with the black-haired ones, there were Mohammedan troops brought in to help subdue the rebellion of An Lu Shan at the end of the T'ang Dynasty. The road and the cities along it became a great meeting place of peoples.

Towards the end of the Manchu Dynasty (1648—1912, the last Chinese Imperial dynasty, called the "Ching" or "pure" dynasty) there was a great Mohammedan rebellion in the northwest by descendants of those Mohammedan soldiers who had come from Central Asia in the T'ang Dynasty.

The general who led the government forces was called T'so Tsung Tang. He repaired the road, planted poplar trees on both sides, and made his soldiers carry water incredible distances to keep them alive. Not many of the trees have survived. Today the new highway which runs close and in some places along the road, is being lined with more trees, cared for by the new road workers and local people who have a sense of responsibility brought by the liberation.

Today, to the hoots of trucks coming down the modern highway that is adjacent in places to the old road, one sits and still

Construction of the Tienshui-Lanchow Railway over rugged terrain called for ingenious and courageous workers.



Workers use sheep-skin rafts to bring sand to the Lanchow railway construction site.

marvels at the pioneering spirit of those who built it. West Kansu is still wild and desolate in many places, with steely snow-clad alps to the south of the road and barren, dry mountains to the north. There are great wide stretches of desert over which wolves roam and where stunted tamarisk bushes stand stark beside dried-up watercourses.

Near Suchow, now called Chiu Chuan (Wine Springs) in West Kansu, is the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.) gate of the Great Wall; a great, high, battlemented gate in a part of the wall crossing a broad valley. Some hundreds of miles further on is the old Jade Gate of the Han and T'ang dynasties, not far past the present city of Tunhuang.

Along this old highway there are many "white bone pagodas" where the bones of those killed in one rebellion or another were kept. These, with other such memories, will fall back into their place in history so that men can analyze the mistakes of the past.

ONE group of revolutionaries, however, whose name will live is that part of the revolutionary army which at the end of the Long March, in 1936, branched down into West Kansu and into Sandan, on the Old Silk Road. In the bitter cold, wearing nothing but thin summer clothing, they beat back the reactionary warlord armies. They were kind to the people and the people loved them.

For 40 days, frozen and starving, they defended Sandan. Captured by the feudalists, they were buried alive in the moat in Lanchow, shot against the Great Wall; and the people lapsed back again into their incredible poverty, yet somehow with the sure knowledge that the thing that brought this first army of deliverers to them would eventually return.

Skies are blue along the Old Silk Road, the air is dry and one does not feel the heat of the summer so much here as further east. There are long distances over grasslands with nothing to be seen but occasional shepherds with their flocks or herdsmen with their cattle. Gazelles jump away from the highway as one passes and in spring or autumn long arrow formations of wild geese pass dreamily overhead.

There are mirages when one comes to the desert sands of the Gobi. There are cities, acres of pottery shards, old bricks dovetailed into each other, forts, towers and beacons, standing silent all along the road.

The liberation of the Chinese people has come none too soon, for through the centuries the great desert of the Gobi has been advancing steadily, tearing from the hands of man the good earth he needs. One has only to stand on the crumbling towers of Hei Shui Kuo City, past Changyih (Kanchow) on the Old Silk Road and see what was once a fertile plain, now entirely covered with sand dunes, to know that the time for man to cease warfare and prevent man's conquest by erosion has come.

Today, with a railway pushing up, in and out of the Great Wall as it winds through the arid parts of West Kansu and Sinkiang provinces, with industry following the railway, there will come those who will stop waters from flowing underground, restore vegetation and life to areas now called dead.

Lines of trucks are already carrying material for the new railways, oil from the new oil fields, machinery and men from the east. They pass in great motorcades of a hundred or more at a time. In the cities where once the garrison troops from the Great Wall came to rest, there are now inns and truck yards where the transport men who were born in Shanghai, Tientsin or even Canton jostle each other and talk of the technical problems connected with their work.

The Old Silk Road, like every other piece of construction for man's use, remains a monument to the courage of its builders and an inspiration to complete still greater tasks with the newer methods of our today and tomorrow.

SOLVING COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

THE NEIGHBORS MEET

BETTY CHANDLER CHANG

UP until November of last year our neighborhood police station was the center of every sort of local activity from routine preventive injections to cultural projects, and served as a neighborhood meeting place.

As such activities branched out, however, the police station understandably became swamped, and the people decided to set up neighborhood self-governing groups, as was being done all over the city.

The basic unit consists of about 10 families who elect their own representatives. In our neighborhood, this may mean the inhabitants of only two or three houses; a very compact group with the members really knowing each other.

Meetings of the Neighborhood Committees, which embrace about five such small units, are called only when business is to be disposed of, and one person from each household is requested to be present. Generally it is the woman of the house who attends since meetings take place during the daytime.

Ours is an ordinary middle-class urban community in a compound of two-story brick homes, a heritage of the Japanese occupation. After Chiang Kai-shek's government took over, these houses suffered pitiful damage at the hands of petty officials who swooped down and claimed "squatter's sovereignity," in this case the right to buy the alien property at a nominal price.

Most of the damage was done by contending squatters fighting over the spoils. They tried to drive each other out by such tricks as plugging the other's drains or chimneys with cement.

Sometimes a richer official would bribe the Kuomintang police to throw the other tenants out, which they would do, bag and baggage. After selling the wreckage for a handsome sum, easy enough to do because of the acute housing shortage, the squatter would move on, not bothering to buy the house from the government in the first place. Such procedures were mild compared with the general banditry practiced in those days.

Now most of these homes are shared by from two to four families, who feel quite at home in each other's houses since they are built on the same plan. One house is the neighborhood police station.

THE first time I saw our neighborhood organization in action was at last year's winter relief meeting. As usual, it was all of women, and within an hour we had discussed - and gotten into action the new policy of relief.

It was agreed that the old charity system must go, since all had seen how such "aid" had "debauched the giver and debased the receiver." The relief should be only for those who had no support and could not work. Everyone agreed that since the relief was people's money, none would be willing to accept help except in case of real necessity.

In our neighborhood, there was only one lone old man who needed relief; this was given him immediately in the form of appropriate padded clothing and bedding, and an adequate sum of money for food. One girl who wanted a new quilt was considered ineligible by her neighbors and her plea was dropped. No forms to be filled out, no expensive social case worker, no red tape of any kind with the neighborhood system!

Mrs. Chi, an active housewife with primary school education, who is our representative, outlined the free medical care plan at this meeting so that everyone might feel secure on that score. Since last October complete medical care and hospitalization have been the right of every public worker and partially free to his family.

However, in case of need, anyone is entitled to free emergency care including surgery, medicines, and hospitalization. Care of chronic cases may be free for two months. Again the neighbors, who know pretty reliably each other's financial status, decide on eligibility.

People may ask, "With medical care free for the first time in China, aren't people overworking the doctors and jamming the hospitals, all of which are still too few?" It is true that doctors are busy and hospitals full, but people are not malingering; they realize that these public expenses are their own, and moreover, sick time is just that much time off from building up their great new country.

The single brief winter relief meeting was adjourned and the women went home to cook supper. Everyone in our neighborhood passed the severe season warm and well fed.

The next meeting was called just before Spring Festival and was a sanitation meeting. It was held in another neighbor's house, a charmingly arranged two-room apartment with potted plants at the windows. Older women and especially those with bound feet were given the chairs or seats on the bed, and the rest of us stood or sat on the footstools some had brought.

For this meeting, we had a public health lecture by a medical college student of our neighborhood. He explained the spreading and also the control of various communicable diseases. He cited how our patriotic sanitation campaign had foiled the plans for spreading germ warfare.

The government helps by providing free insecticides; the people all get out and apply them. A few days after the meeting a committee of women made an inspection tour of every house and gave suggestions when necessary for further improving the sanitary condition.

One Sunday afternoon we met again to discuss the current education program — full implementation of the new marriage law. Forty-eight women, young and old, and probably an equal number of children gathered in the bright spring sunshine in a neighbor's front yard. Some of the youngsters slept, some ran about, noiseless so as not to disturb.

Some members went around to call stragglers. Everyone out! In this way, the neighbors can know if anyone is sick, or beset by a problem. The neighbors will help.

The meeting brought out the fact that in spite of the marriage law, there are still cases of feudal exploitation of women. One speaker, a young man from another part of the city, told us that his own case is quite the opposite of the usual situation: his wife is a doctor and it was she who earned money besides raising three children. He had never seen to it that her food was kept warm, or that a warm welcome home awaited her—it had never occurred to him to do so, and others would have laughed and sneered at him if he had.

Now he has seen the error of his ways, has found a job in a hospital, shows kindness to his wife, and finds that the new society regards him more highly for so doing. It is the only reasonable and harmonious way to live.

The deeply wrinkled face of one old woman broke into a smile as she expressed her view that the new way suited her fine, and her daughter-in-law is working and bringing up her children better and more happily with her new freedom. Others spoke to the same effect, and the meeting adjourned promptly at 3:00 o'clock with the decision that any special problems could be discussed in small groups.

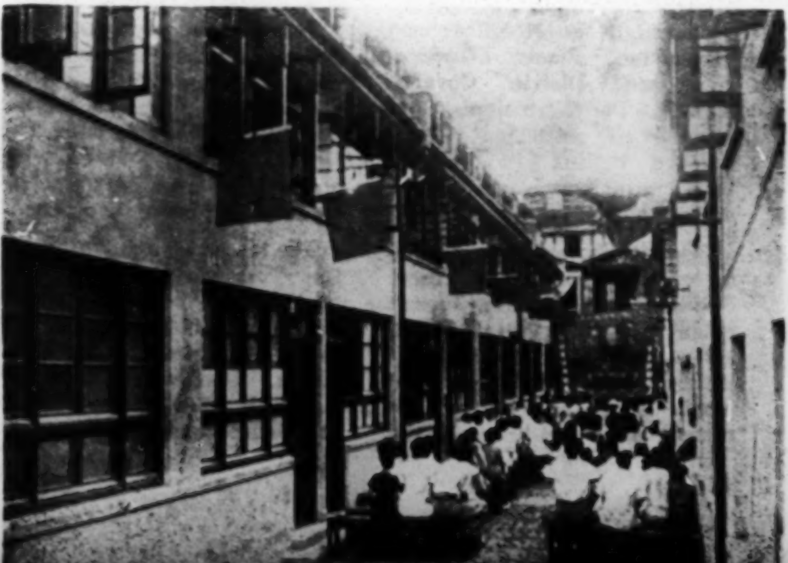
All felt that our neighborhood should be a thoroughly harmonious unit and we can help each other in making it so.

Management of affairs is not carried out only at formal meetings. Dealing with such matters as mass inoculation, and winter and medical relief, committees may go to each household. For instance, if there is any difficulty in keeping a child in school, the group will cooperate with the family in remedying the situation. The obstacle must be overcome. Cooperative effort makes it possible for every illiterate to be in spare-time school.

A few days ago someone from the Neighborhood Committee asked our cook if he would be interested in acting, as they are forming a dramatic group. Though his time is limited because he is attending literacy school in the evenings, he expressed the desire to join.

Some may wonder if people's work doesn't suffer from so much outside activity. I can say from experience with

A neighborhood meeting at Pingwang Villa, a former slum area in Shanghai that was rebuilt by the government.



our two household helpers that the fact is quite, the opposite. They do much better work and with much better spirit when they have outside interests and know what they're working for. Our cook has been doing especially good work for us since he came home from an all-morning meeting at which he was decorated and given prizes as a model spare-time school group leader.

FOUR Neighborhood Committees form a Street Government organization, which handles problems appealed to it, and employment. This is the largest group under the District Government of which there are eight in Tientsin. The next unit is the Municipal Government itself.

A case that originates in the 10-family group can be appealed through the Neighborhood Committee, Street Government, and District Government to the Municipal Government if settlement is not reached before. In practice most problems are solved among a few good neighbors.

Here too a word is needed on our new type of democracy. Solution of a problem doesn't mean only that those helping settle it reach a decision. It means that those involved must also be able to see the reason for and accept the decision, or better still, that they arrive at a decision themselves.

We see examples of this real democracy in action every day. One recently occurred on our street corner, an incident involving two bicycles. The traffic policeman heard each side's story—the accident was a trivial one, no damage being done except to the feelings of one of the principals.

To the bystanders who had collected and formed a sort of impromptu court, it was felt that there was a little wrong on the part of both parties: one was oversensitive and the other refused to apologize. But since neither would admit to a mistake and traffic was being held up, the policeman suggested they take a witness to the local police station and talk it out to their satisfaction.

This is the typical procedure: the policeman or the bystanders cannot make the decision. The parties concerned must reach an agreement. This principle runs through all legal procedures here and assures that justice is reached.

The cynical description of Lin Yutang's that a Chinese pastime is "enjoying watching a neighbor fall off his roof," is fantastic in new China. People are becoming their brother's keeper in the finest sense of the word.

SOME MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT NEW CHINA

E. R. Lapwood

Professor of English at Tsinghua University in the suburbs of Peking for many years, Mr. E. R. Lapwood has had an unexcelled opportunity to see both the new and old China at close hand. Returning to his native England last fall, Professor Lapwood found himself asked all sorts of questions about conditions in this country. Among these were a number which, occurring frequently, illustrated some of the current misconceptions held abroad about the new China. Following are a representative sampling of the latter type questions and Professor Lapwood's answers.

IN CHINA NOWADAYS THE INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT COUNT; HE IS SIMPLY AN ELEMENT OF THE ALL-IMPORTANT STATE.

THERE is more care for the individual in China today than ever before. The people who were bottom dogs have found that they now have a real place, and that their work is recognized as significant for the country.

For instance, the pedicab* man with whom I talked while on my way to Peking to leave China, discussed with me the difference that the people's government has made in the life of his family. Whereas in the old days they never knew where the next meal was coming from, now they are adequately fed. Food and clothes, though simple and rough, are enough. Moreover, they can now send their children to school.

This man did not expect to be pedaling a pedicab much longer, for pedicab men are gradually being reduced in numbers as they get chances to learn new trades and are absorbed into new factories. More and more buses are appearing on the roads, and it is hoped that in five years' time this inefficient and arduous job will be eliminated, and the men all engaged in skilled production. In this, as in many cases, organization and planning brings freedom to people who were slaves to want, and a meaningful job in place of mere brute labor.

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* A tricycle affair for one or two passengers pedaled by a driver. In the larger cities, the pedicab has pretty well replaced the rickshaw.

In a very different sphere, I saw university methods and relationships change in the direction of much greater care for the individual. Our university was a leading one in the old days with an excellent record of treatment of students, yet every year the Science College failed a big proportion of its freshman class (50 percent of the pre-medicals). Their grades were below the average and what happened to them after they left us was not our concern.

Nowadays teachers and students of each class make it their business to see that as far as is humanly possible every member of the class shall get a grasp of the work, and be fit to continue the course.

The teachers are now responsible to a far greater degree than before for tutoring groups and individuals; this task is made easier by the organization within the class, by which quick students coach slower ones, and problems and difficulties are immediately transmitted to the teacher.

Many other examples could be cited—the organization of the home servants and their successful combined action against an unscrupulous housewife who ill-treated her maid—the safety measures introduced and enforced in the Men-T'ou-kou coal mines near Peking—the training of hundreds of thousands of midwives in the use of clean methods and antiseptics to save mothers and babies—the honoring of heroes of labor by everybody. Wherever one turns in modern China one sees people who for the first time have a chance to live as self-determining and respected individuals.

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CHINESE NEWSPAPERS AND FILMS TODAY ARE DULL AND UNIFORM ORGANS OF PROPAGANDA.

AS I came into Hongkong from Peking, most Hongkong newspapers seemed to me to be filled mainly with futile and meaningless matter. There were masses of advertisements, detailed news of small crimes, cartoons to attract the eyes or give a moment's humor, plenty of comment, but very little factual reporting of important events or statements.

I had not time to go to see any of the films so luridly advertised, but friends confirmed the impression I had gained from the notices—that nearly all the films catered (at best) to the desire to escape.

Compared with these, papers and films in Peking *are* uniform—they all speak in terms of service of the common people, national construction, hard work, courage and initiative. They do not provide escape—they do their best to prevent escape from knowledge and responsibility.

Are they propaganda? Almost all newspapers everywhere aim to get over to their readers a certain point of view—to promote certain interests. In the case of a magazine such as the *Economist* which serves British capitalists this is very clear. But it is often obscure or hidden, so that the readers do not realize that they are the subjects of propaganda.

In people's China it is taken as proved that all newspapers are media for propaganda and education, and all newspapers make it their job to explain government policy and mobilize public opinion to its support. The uniform nature of the papers in this respect reflects the new unity of the Chinese people—a unity that can be understood by reference to wartime Britain, and that is hard to grasp for people whose experience of China dates back to pre-liberation days.

The function of newspapers in providing relaxation and escape for their readers is comparatively modern, and reflects a society which is full of frustrations and internal tension. In a social system which shows a very strong sense of purpose and direction, people do not find the same need to escape, and the newspapers can use their space for more constructive and creative purposes.

The same is true of films. To the outsider they may look dull and monotonous, but to the person committed to that purpose they are full of valuable information on the principle and method, which is just what he wants. This is the character of the demand in modern China, and the newspapers aim to answer the question "How can this serve the common man?"

IS CHINA A POLICE STATE?

EVERY people which aims at socialism must be highly organized, with extensive governmental planning and control. There has to be a plan, and the government must be able to mobilize the people to support the plan. The energy lies with the mass of citizens, but until it is given organization it can achieve little construction.

One of the organs through which the government achieves the necessary degree of planning and systematic execution of plans in China is the police station. In each village this registers each person, his house and his job, takes responsibility for public order and the settling of disputes; it also explains government actions to the villagers and mobilizes them to put the actions into effect locally. The police naturally take special care about suspect people—those on parole as ex-Kuomintang agents or ex-leaders of gangs and secret societies.

If such a police system expresses the will of the people, and depends for its efficiency on the backing of the people, it will make for security and freedom—though a certain amount of red tape is unavoidable, especially when the system is being instituted. But if it expresses the will of a minority and depends for its action on the threat of force in the background, there is the beginning of a police state.

My experience with the police in China over many years convinced me that whereas the Kuomintang police showed the second of these characters, the people's government police show the first.

The people's police started into a hard job—bitter experience of many years had led people to dislike and avoid all police. Yet within three years they have on the whole won the confidence of the people. The Peking policeman is now armed not with a pistol or truncheon but with a megaphone, and yet the city and suburbs are safer than I have ever known them.

Our cook was won over from an attitude of aloof suspicion to one of respect and friendship. A poor and mentally subnormal gardener overcame his fear of the police and took a case to court against his employer and won justice.

Visiting the police station one sees officers explaining marriage laws, organizing cleanliness drives, solving personal conflicts between neighbors, talking like Dutch uncles to people who have forgotten to register a birth or a removal. The old use of power to squeeze commissions and all the other forms of police corruption have been rooted out.

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THE HUGE DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT ORGANIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON ANNIVERSARIES ARE MERELY FORCED AND OFFICIAL. THERE IS NO SUCH PREVALENT MOOD OF SPONTANEOUS GAIETY.

I HAVE been living for four years in a university community, and I marched in all the processions until this past year, and I would say that the mood of hope and happiness on which transient visitors to China comment is *real and constant.*

From the beginning our students greeted the people's government with hope and confidence. But at first many of the older people joined in demonstrations from a sense of patriotic duty. Only gradually, as they watched the succession of achievements of the government, were they won over to active cooperation.

By now, young and old have thrown themselves enthusiastically into the work of carrying out government plans, and this enthusiasm finds genuine expression in the willing cooperation of all in giant demonstrations, and in the singing and dancing of the young people.

Whenever one talks with a peasant or worker or student, one finds that he is confident that he is needed, that his contribution to the nation has its own significance and that if he does it well he will be part of the creative force of modern China.

He believes that he and his countrymen have come out of darkness into light, and that there is a future of rising living standards, increased opportunities, and more widespread culture. He looks forward confidently to the ending of war and an era of international peace and friendship. Towards these objectives he works single-mindedly and he is happy.

Apart from the effect of sure employment, stable prices, purposeful activity, and patriotic pride in making the man in the street feel happier than before, there are many ways in which life is becoming brighter. Better and more colorful cloth is available for clothes, a more interesting variety of food has become available with better transport, there are more schools and night schools, more exhibitions, more shows, more books, more games played much better than ever before. Life is full of new zest.

Those who refuse to join in the struggle for a better life and evade the services of the common man react rather in a mood of hostile criticism and gloom. Such people often flee from China and spread false judgments in places such as Hongkong.

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THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WOULD WELCOME THE RETURN OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

THIS statement finds no basis whatever in the facts. Consider the various groups in China's population. The great majority of the peasants [more than 80 percent of the population] have found new life and new hope through land reform. The return of the Kuomintang would mean the return of the landlords.

The workers in the factories have secured better treatment in wages and working conditions; moreover, they are regarded by the government as leaders of the revolution, and they have begun to think of themselves in that way, and to take responsibility for increased efficiency of production. The return of the Kuomintang would mean the return of all the old evils and the subjugation and impoverishment of the workers.

Students in schools and universities have become convinced of the rightness of a people's democracy, and of the desirability of progress toward socialism and communism. The return of the Kuomintang would mean the end of their hopes, and a return to the meaninglessness and repression of pre-liberation days. Most of the intelligentsia feel the same way, after seeing three years of achievements by the people's government.

These categories already include most of the people. Others who belong to none of them still realize that they have obtained tremendous benefits from the people's government, which the Kuomintang could not hope to maintain and would probably destroy—stable prices, certainty of livelihood, freedom from banditry and gangsterism, good communications, honest officials, rising living standards, rapid industrialization, and widespread construction.

The statement that Chiang Kai-shek would be welcomed back by any but the tiniest disgruntled minority is nothing but wishful thinking. It has no basis in the facts of liberated China. It must have originated from the tiny minority of dispossessed oppressors on Taiwan.

TOOLS FOR INDUSTRY

The machine tool industry, virtually non-existent in the past, is today becoming a major industry in new China.

CHINA'S industrialization is fast becoming a reality; this cannot be separated from the growth of the nation's machine tool industry, producing the basic tools which make other tools and on which all industry rests. After three years of rehabilitation and adjustment, the total value of machine tool output last year was one and a half times as much as 1951, while the number of machine tools turned out was double the 1951 figure.

Old China's semi-colonial economy never really developed industrially; it was meant to be a dumping ground for manufactured goods,. and a source of raw materials for foreign interests. The machine tool industry, such as it was, was concentrated in the coastal areas. There was no large-scale manufacturing; a small number of poorly-equipped "factories" were restricted largely to repair and assembly work.

The existing feeble industry, under the Kuomintang's inept rule, was stifled because of the general economic disorder, which finally degenerated into utter chaos. Kuomintang officials in charge of the old state-owned plants often sold the machinery and equipment, to line their own pockets—sometimes, when they could not find a buyer, they even sold machines as scrap iron.

At the same time, machine tools could not be sold because of a very limited market, due to widespread poverty, sky-high inflation, and the general idea that foreign products, *per se*, were preferable to China-manufactures.

By the time the Kuomintang gang was ousted, the industry was at a virtual standstill, and its workers were out of jobs.

In 1950, following the formation of the people's government, the All-China Machine-Tool Conference was convened in order to lay plans for ending the industry-wide stagnation. Immediately, the government placed large orders with factories, often making payment in advance. This step proved to be a stabilizing action for the machine-tool plants.

State factories, formerly in the hands of Kuomintang official-capitalists, were given production tasks based on planning, as were large numbers of private plants, to aid in carrying out processing orders and production. These were of great help in seeing them through the difficult task of reorganization. At the same time, small factories amalgamated under joint-management and took on orders, thereby raising their capacity and enlarging the scope of production.

In 1951, production was based chiefly on the existing equipment. By 1952, however, new equipment and the setting up of modern plants was a reality.

This year, which sees the beginning of China's first Five-Year Plan for industrialization, finds the machine tool industry receiving great attention from the national government. No longer a feeble, limping industry, it is a vital segment of the over-all economy and will be a determining factor in the nation's industrialization.

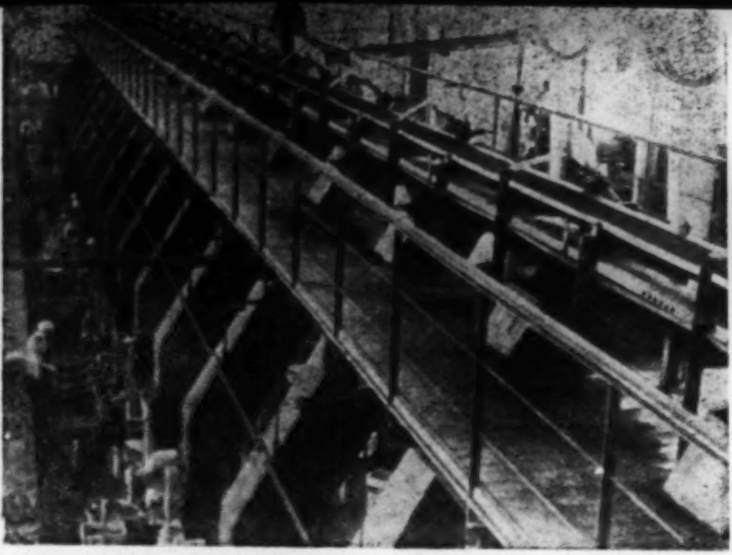
Already new China is producing machine tools, large and small, which a few years ago had to be imported. The rapid growth of the industry has led to the manufacture of heavy engineering machinery, such as hydraulic presses, hoisting installations and the sluice-gates used in various flood control projects throughout the country.

In the field of railway construction, the industry has supplied wires, cables, generators, electric motors, transformers; for mining, it has supplied drilling and other machines, and ventilators.

ONE of the most important forms of assistance given new China by the Soviet Union has been in the machine tool industry. This in itself is a clear answer to the deliberate untruth spread in the West about "Soviet control."

No nation bent on making a colony of another nation goes out of its way to help that nation industrialize. A look at any colonial or semi-colonial country in Asia, South America or Africa points this out.

Last year many machines were turned out which were designed and manufactured according to Soviet standards and patterns. There is a Soviet-type lathe with a length of 5,000 millimeters, which is now breaking Chinese production records. New China also can manufacture the Soviet 724 Planer which is 9,600 millimeters in length and equipped with 13 electric



A new mechanized foundry established in Shanghai by workers and technicians of the state-owned Textile Machinery Corporation.

motors, totaling 80 kilowatts voltage.

Mass production of different lathes and other machines is under way. Soviet standards and patterns have been adopted in the manufacture of steam hammers, steam engines, diesel engines and various types of internal-combustion engines, and other general and specialized machinery.

Production capacity of the electric machine industry has also increased steadily since Soviet models were adopted last year. Motors, for instance, have increased in capacity from 200 kilowatts to 1,500 kilowatts, generators from 800 kilowatts to more than 6,000 kilowatts, and transformers from 2,000 to 20,000 k.v.a.

The voltage of high-pressure oil switchboards has gone over 69,000 volts, and the productive capacity of high-pressure experimental transformers has reached 300,000 volts.

THE new outlook of the workers in industry is an important factor in the development of machine tools in the past three years. No longer forced to exist under sweatshop conditions and with a definite stake in their country's future, they have gone all-out in the drive to industrialize China speedily.

Instead of being faced with the gloomy prospect of miserable wages and the constant threat of unemployment, workers in the machine tool industry have a certain future of steady work and a rising standard of living.

One of the concrete expressions of the new attitude of workers has been the phenomenal number of large and small inventions, the innovations in working methods, and the new working methods themselves which thousands of ordinary men in the shops have come up with.

Workers are constantly learning. Spare-time classes and discussion forums on management as well as production are held constantly in factories. Experienced workers have set up teaching programs in order to speed the training of more qualified workers in the near future; for the first time, women are being trained and are already operating lathes and other intricate machinery.

Added to this, the establishment of many industrial schools, where qualified technical personnel are being trained has played an important role in the advance of production and technique in the machine tool industry.

The new outlook of the Chinese worker is reflected in the growing number of model workers throughout the nation. These men and women serve as examples to workers in all factories.

Last year, for example, in four machine tool plants in North China, a total of 1,050 new devices and rationalization proposals were made inside of three months, some of them increasing working efficiency by more than 30 times.

At the same time, there is a constant striving to overcome stop-gaps. In 1952, a series of inspections of different machine tool plants revealed certain shortcomings, whereupon the technical quota was readjusted, organization of labor was improved, planning methods were revised, and abnormal production conditions existing in a number of plants were done away with.

New China's machine tool industry is developing at a rapid pace, and at the same time it is laying a firm foundation for the nation's national construction. However, at present, its output is still inadequate to meet the prodigious needs of this vast country. Thus, the immediate future will see constant attempts to develop and extend the range of the industry.

Nobody denies that China still has a long way to go before being fully industrialized; however, industrialization will come faster than many people think. The new machine tool industry will play an important role in attaining this goal.

Letter from Soochow

KAO FAN

FAMOUS through the years as one of China's most frequented scenic spots, Soochow is enjoying a rebirth. About 53 miles from Shanghai, this city, with its network of winding canals, long was known as the "Venice of the Orient." Today, retaining and restoring all its natural beauties, it is fast changing from a "sleeping scenic city," revolving around the spendings of retired officials, landlords and wealthy city-dwellers, into a commercial and light industry center in Kiangsu province.

Like the rest of China, under Chiang Kai-shek the city was economically prostrate at the time of liberation in May 1949. For example, Soochow's famous handicraft industry was at a virtual standstill. Roads and bridges were in disrepair and the city's canal system was largely silted up because of municipal neglect. Popular tourist spots, which had added to the fame of Soochow, were run-down or in ruins.

Immediately after the new government was set up, many unemployed were given work on various construction projects. On the outskirts of Soochow, one-time landless and poor peasants have a new prosperity since land reform and are able to buy goods in the city.

Municipal construction has been a keynote in building a new Soochow. A large stadium, a big park and the Hsimen Bridge all were completed early last year. To meet the demands of increased business activity a warehouse capable of holding more than 30,000 tons of goods and two wharves along the ancient Grand Canal were finished last June. At the same time, four more wharves, new factories and housing projects for workers all are going up.

A new community has sprung up in the city — the South Gate Market Square. Built on more than 60 acres of former swampland, it was completed last summer. The square was formally opened to the public on September 25, marking the holding of Kiangsu province's Third Trade Exhibition.

In addition to the more than 160 branch offices and shops set up by both public and private industrial and business houses; the People's Bank, the New China Bookstore, a telegraph office and the local newspaper all have sub-offices in this new community. A movie house, a theater and a circus ground also are included.

THE long needed dredging of Soochow's many canals has met with the approval of the city's 500,000 residents. The overall plan is to dredge the main canal thoroughfares so as to raise the water levels in order that river craft can navigate even in the low-water season.

The first stage of the job was ended last August. Small silted up creeks and canals, which are unnavigable, have been filled in with earth cleaned out in the dredging of the canals. With the conclusion of the entire project, river and canal traffic is expected to increase greatly, carrying manufactured products from and bringing farm produce to the city.

THE past few years have witnessed a phenomenal growth in Soochow's industry and commerce.

During the first eight

Left: A canal recently dredged in Soochow. Below: Surveying the site of the South Gate Market Square. Right: A warehouse under construction.

months of last year, for example, 27 trade missions from Soochow visited various trade and commercial exhibitions all over China, making contacts and signing contracts. Practically every part of the country was covered, including the Northeast and Northwest and areas as far off as Tibet and Inner Mongolia as well as big cities such as Canton, Loyang and Sian. In addition, trade missions from all parts of China came to Soochow to conclude deals.

By the end of last August, sales and proceeds realized from the fulfillment of more than 2,250 contracts doubled the entire amount of business done in all of 1951.

Expansion in state-owned enterprises has been featured by workers' emulation drives, improved production methods and more efficient management. Private industry and commerce, an integral part of this city's advancing economy, is steadily improving as a result of an increased market and government aids such as low-interest loans, lowered tax rates and reduced freight charges on the railroads.

The revival of Soochow's famous handicrafts is an example of all-around business improvement here. Long renowned, the handicraft trade went downhill in the '30's and '40's as a result of the huge influx of foreign goods and excessive capital exploitation.

However, with government loans and supplies of raw materials, the handicraft trades have made a notable recovery. By the beginning of this year, compared with the last year of Kuomintang rule in 1948, there were almost double the number of workshops and workers. About half of Soochow's business enterprises are in handicrafts, an industry which gives employment to 70,000 men and women.

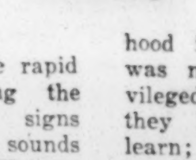
NATION-WIDE DRIVE AGAINST ILLITERACY

People Learn to Read

H. C. HUANG

THE cultural drive to wipe out illiteracy in China has been in high gear for the past year, and is now being carried out on a nation-wide scale. The campaign is based on the Rapid Method for Learning Characters which was developed by a cultural worker in the People's Liberation Army—Chi Chien-hua, a one-time poor peasant whose father died of starvation in Kuomintang times.

The success of this method lies in its simplicity, which enables an ordinary illiterate to master as many as 2,000 characters in a short time, and be well on the way to reading newspapers. Even the slowest student is able to absorb 500 characters within one month.



The first step in the rapid method is memorizing the phonetic symbols—37 signs which represent all the sounds in the language. Written Chinese consists of thousands of characters, each of which may be represented by from one to three of these phonetic signs.

In Korea I have seen army men studying with the help of the rapid character method, and back here in Fukien province in south China, I have attended classes and talked with peasants and their teachers. Though the two places are thousands of miles apart, the method used and the results obtained are practically identical.

HERE in this small south Fukien village far off the beaten track, a class was started at the beginning of this year, in spite of the early doubts of many of the villagers, diffident because of their childhood impressions that school was meant only for a privileged few. Some felt they lacked the ability to learn; some thought it would involve too much time or expense. Others, especially housewives and mothers, thought they were too old.

A number of explanatory meetings were held to show the people that their fears and doubts were unjustified. In order that the first class might not be too unwieldy, it was limited to 40 pupils, with one instructor and an assistant who pledged that none of the pupils would fail. A quota of 2,000 characters was set.

In order to give the beginners confidence and ambition, it was considered necessary that they learn the 37 phonetic signs quickly. Each sign is accompanied by a picture to denote the sound: the phonetic "1" is pronounced "ee", which has several meanings including "chair", and chair can be used as an illustration. Illus rated phonetics are pasted in the classroom wall, to be constantly under observation.

The first two weeks were spent in mastering these signs, the teacher constantly drilling the class. At the first review period, the class was broken up into eight small groups of five persons, each led by an above-average student. These leaders tutored their respective groups and at regular intervals reported on the progress of their groups and consulted with the instructors as to which students needed more individual help. A team of the star pupils was organized to encourage and aid the laggards.

Next, each pupil was given a complete set of the 37 phonetics, all of which he was taught to recognize by sound and by sight, without the aid of pictures. The second phase was for him to combine two or three phonetics to form one single syllable, when necessary, to read a single Chinese word. In this stage the instructor would point to some object in the classroom—a desk, for instance, and the pupil was required to pick out the three phonetic sounds which when combined meant "desk."

CLASSES of two periods of 50 minutes each with a break of 15 minutes between were held every night except Sunday, and at the end of two weeks the phonetic signs were completely mastered. In the third week, actual Chinese characters were used, divided into sets of about 200 characters each, in which similar sounds were grouped together.

Next were taught sets in which were grouped characters of related subjects: east, west, south, north; day, night, morning, evening; today and tomorrow, and so forth.

Other means were used to fix the characters in the learners' minds. Phonetic signs were written alongside each character, accompanied whenever possible by pictures. Also, the character was pasted on the object itself—on the wall, table, chair, window. This was also done by the individual pupil at home.

In the beginning, the instructors taught only a few words a day; this was gradually increased to 10, 20, and even 40 according to the pupil's ability and rate of progress. During this stage the team made up of the more advanced students gave individual instruction to their slower classmates.

While the number of characters learned will vary according to the individual, once this stage is reached, all make steady progress. The final stage involved the remembering of characters without the aid of the phonetics. Within two months, even the most backward completed the reading of a book of over 2,000 common words.

Infinitely much time and labor have been saved by this Rapid Method. Chi Chien-hua well deserves all the praise he has received. His is a great contribution to victory on the cultural front.

Illiteracy is

A CULTURAL torch is blazing in Chuen Liu Chai, a tiny village in Shensi province, where the county government set up a rapid character-learning class last summer.

One can imagine the great excitement in this little hamlet, where since time immemorial illiteracy had been taken as a normal way of life. The stupendous announcement was on all lips, and more than 70 peasants rushed to join.

Old, disabled Yang Shing-yung leaning on his cane, looked with shining eyes at his son, one of the first to register. The literacy class quickly took shape, several youth league members volunteering as assistants to teacher Kung Fan-chien, who had studied in a teacher's training class.

THE first class started! That was indeed a red-letter day for the villagers, even for the old timers. Most of the students quickly learned the phonetic signs; only a few had trouble with certain symbols because of their similarities.

Teacher Kung explained it this way: "Study is like hoeing, and these difficult signs are like weeds which we must root out." Then he wrote the

is Wiped Out in a Shensi Village

troublesome phonetics on the blackboard and explained them in relation to practical aspects of life. Thus, with the students' diligence, all these "grasses" were weeded out.

Determined that all should master the quick method, the students formed small mutual-aid groups; the better students as group leaders helped their slower classmates not only in class, but also in their homes after dinner.

EAGERNESS to learn spread rapidly throughout the village, like a benevolent contagious disease. Mornings when the sky was still dark, late in the evening under oil lamps, the peasants went singing to their studies; men read books when they paused for a rest in the fields, women when weaving cloth or spinning thread. Chao Ning-shin was the first to chalk up the characters on the walls of his room. "In this way," he said, "these words can't fly away."

Like people everywhere, the villagers of Chuen Liu Chai could hardly believe what they first heard of the rapid method. "It's impossible to master 100 characters a day, unless we eat or drink them," some had grumbled. Others had insistted that "men won't study after 30."

But several months' study removed their doubts. Forty-year-old Hu Teh-shun can now write simple letters, while Chao Yang-shin and Miao Pi-ya, formerly completely illiterate, wrote a letter to Chairman Mao, thanking him for wiping out illiteracy. Other letters from the villagers reporting on their crops and classwork were printed in the *Shensi Daily.*

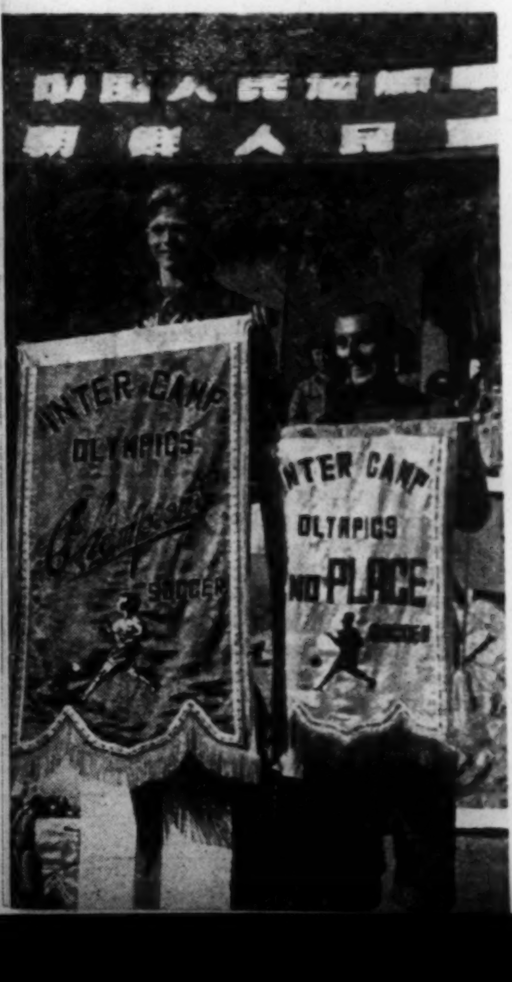
IN this out-of-the-way village superstition was rampant in the past, but since the launching of the literacy drive, the peasants have begun to question their old ideas about "spirits." When excess rainfall impaired the cotton crop, a few oldsters were heard to complain, "The spirit is manifesting his awful power. Here we've been doing everything to prevent drought and instead we get a flooded field."

But the students were reading about the new methods of irrigation and crop-improvement, which they know no "spirits" can prevent from bringing prosperity to this formerly backward village.

P.O.W. OLYMPICS IN KOREA

Realizing that time passes slowly for prisoners of war, the North Korean and Chinese authorities have gone to considerable pains to provide educational and recreational facilities for the POW camps in North Korea. Books, newspapers, sporting equipment, musical instruments not to mention such essentials as food, clothing and medical supplies are shipped in from hundreds, sometimes thousands of miles, to the camps. Often they have had to be carried part of the way on foot, sometimes moving only at night to avoid US planes.

Most popular with the American, British and other United Nations' POW's have been the athletic events, which have grown until they now include regular inter-camp meets and periodic all-camp "Olympics." Pictures on this and following pages were taken during the last "Olympic" meet.

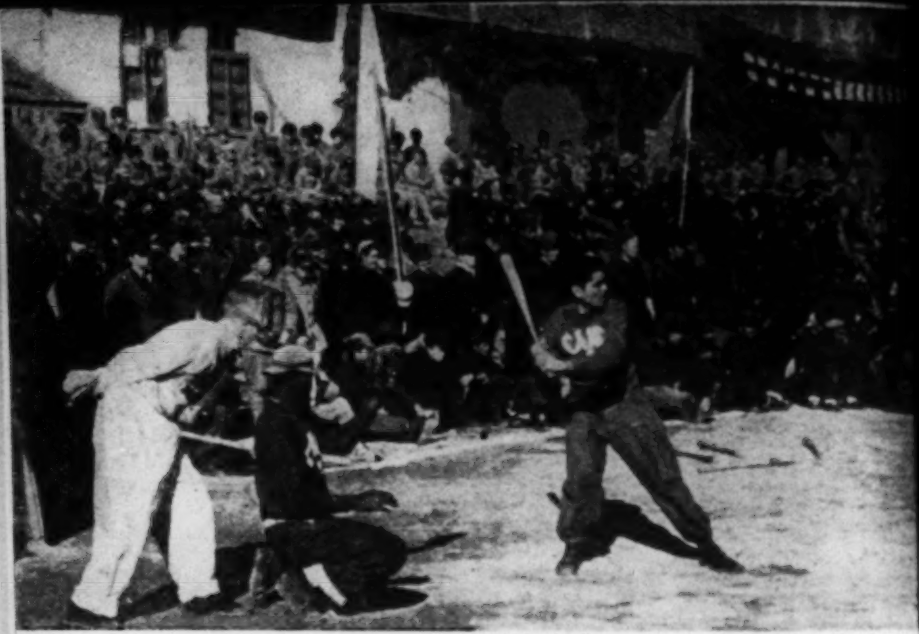


Left: Holding 1st and 2nd place banners awarded to winning soccer teams are, left, Alexander Bruce of Camp 1, and Arie Biever of Camp 5.

CAMP NO II
CAMP NO II 31
CAMP NO II
CAMP 31 NO II

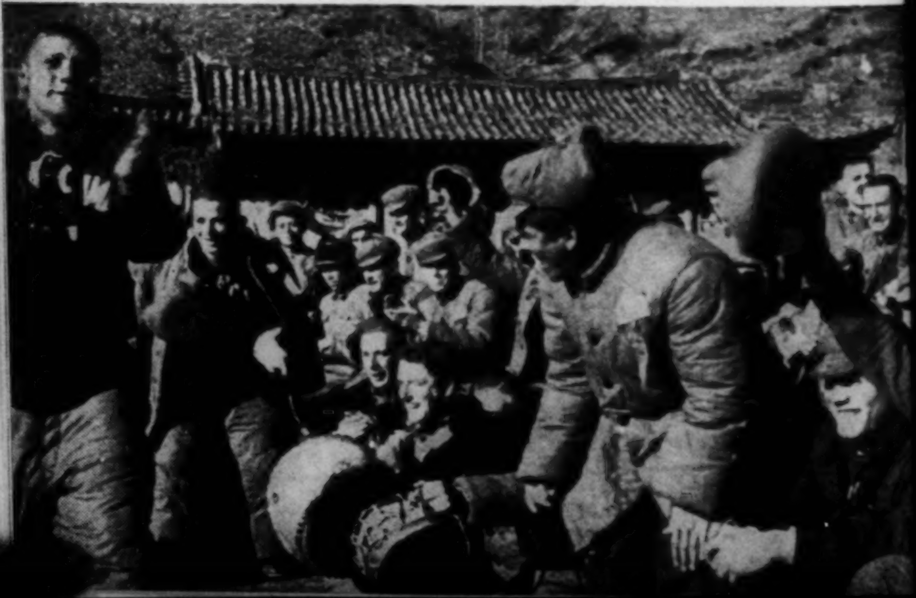
Above from left: Dayton W. Ragland, Jack H. Ridlington, Walter L. Jackson Jr., Louis L. Adkins, all of Camp 2.

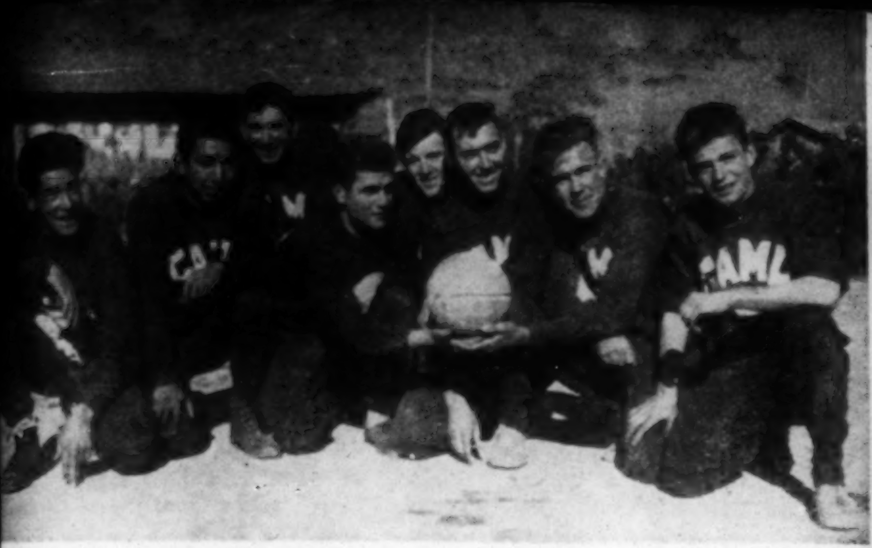
Below: Tense moment as John L. Thomas of Camp 5 takes shot at the basket. Other players, from left, Billy B. Foshee (Camp 2), Loris R. Miller (Camp 2), and Robert W. Allen (Camp 5).



Above: It is Abraham R. Hernandez of Camp 3 up to bat, with catcher Jessie Hatter, Jr. of Camp 5 and umpire Carl R. Lundquist of Camp 2 waiting expectantly.

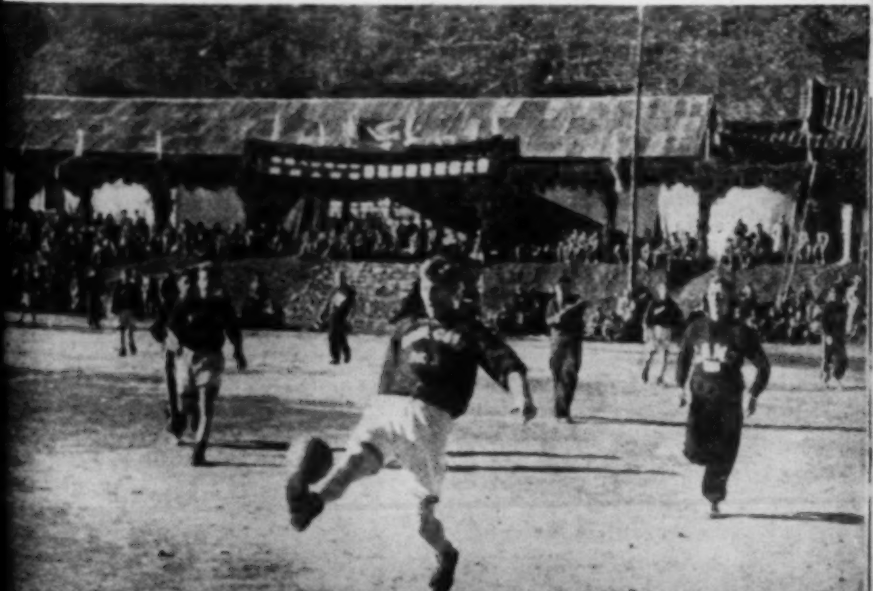
Below: Cheering section from Camp 1, replete with Chinese drums for added sound effects, voices approval of a play by its team.





Above: Camp 5 basketball team poses for group picture following a hard-fought match. From left: Elliett Sortille, Joe E. Ramirez, Jack L. Stegall, Steven E. Magiera, Edward E. Clevenger, Walter O. Moore, Delmar G. Miller and A. W. Brooks.

Below: Thomas Bennyworth of Camp 1 brings soccer ball under control, while Arthur Gill, at far right, of Camp 5 runs toward the play.



Peking Primary School Pioneers New Method

Julian Schuman

THE buildings of this primary school remind the visitor of a typical Peking-style courtyard. Yet, beneath the sloping roofs and within the newly painted walls, an experiment aimed at fundamental changes in primary education is being carried out.

Attached to the Peking Teachers' College, it was one of the six primary schools in the capital which first tried out the new five-year course in 1950. The experience gathered to date indicates that the experiment is working out successfully, and, beginning last year, all primary schools adopted the new five-year schedule.

Wang Ching, 34 year-old principal of the school, explained the reasoning behind the change. In the past the primary school course was divided into two parts, the first being four years, the second being two years.

However, he pointed out, this was only in the cities, since in rural areas the course was only four years. This left peasant children at a disadvantage when it came to entering middle school as their educational level was naturally lower.

While the majority of the peasant children could not afford much if any schooling, this device made doubly sure that a higher education was denied to any but the sons of the well-to-do who could afford to send their children to the towns and cities for the additional two years of primary schooling.

A further reason for taking this step, Wang stated, was that it was found that the age of six was a bit too young to enter regular school as it placed too great a burden on the children, both mentally and physically. The old idea that the younger you start teaching them the smarter they'll be has now been discarded. Forced learning at too early an age may cause dislocations and maladjustments later on, he said.

The program now is for pre-school age children to attend kindergarten, where the main emphasis is on developing the child's health and imparting learning as painlessly and informally as possible. Attached to this school is a kindergarten for children from four to seven. Here, they learn chiefly from games, stories told by the teacher and from visits to scenic, historical and educational spots in the capital.

One of the keys to the success of the five-year course, Principal Wang explained, is the new teaching method being used. In the past there were two major problems: the attitude of the teachers and the teaching method itself.

Because of poor working conditions teachers had little interest in their classes other than to get them over with and perhaps try to find some outside work to help support themselves. There was no real aim in the teaching and little interest in the individual student.

In classroom work today, instead of the teacher delivering a period-long lecture, simply telling the young students what they should know, the teacher tries to introduce a topic in such a way that it will encourage the students to ask questions.

For example, when the teacher says that flies like dirty places and are always to be found on piles of refuse, and so on, the children are almost sure to point out that they see flies on steamed bread which is white and clean, so how can they spread disease.

The teacher can then give a detailed answer and the whole incident will be much more firmly implanted in the childrens' minds than would have been the case if the teacher had merely read the whole

School children practice songs for celebrating International Children's Day.

lesson out of a textbook. By letting children raise questions, classroom attention is better and at the same time it develops within the children a spirit of inquiry.

While each year's course is carefully planned in advance, the procedure is not rigid and every effort is made to tie the teaching in with the child's everyday life. Last fall, for example, at the time of the Asian and Pacific Regions Peace Conference in Peking, pupils were encouraged to write, paint and do handicraft work with peace as the central theme.

Teachers take a personal interest in each pupil and watch his or her progress step by step. In the past, the lesson was taught, passed over, and the student went on to the next lesson. Now, lessons are gone into, learned and reviewed, and the pupil is then questioned to see if he or she has complete understanding. In the old days, the teacher was looked upon more as an advisor and pupils were left to their own devices to learn by themselves.

An important function of the teacher today is to get to know the pupil. Before the beginning of each term, the teacher visits the parents of every one of his students, and during the term there are frequent meetings between teacher and parent, not simply to tell a mother her child has been getting poor marks but to discuss with her fully the child's life in school and at home.

One of the big evils of the past, the club which hung over the youngsters, was the examination. Today, pupils have no such fear. There are weekly quizzes and students who get below three points (five is the maximum mark) receive individual help from

A teacher at the primary school shows students how to construct a microscope.

the teacher or from fellow-students. At the end of each term there is an examination.

The term-end examination is no longer meant to bully youngsters into studying and boning up. Classes are suspended for a month before, and the term's work reviewed. During this period, teachers give the pupils a list of questions covering the entire term's work and these are reviewed one by one.

During the examination, with the exception of Chinese and arithmetic, which are written, all tests are oral. Pupils walk up to the platform, drawing a set of questions from a box. The questions are then answered while the principal, assistant-principals, teachers and visitors listen. In the words of one 12 year-old, "On examination day, we all put on our best clothes, for this is our happiest day in the term."

LAST fall, an Italian correspondent and I visited this Peking primary school. We talked to the principal, two assistant-principals, teachers and students. While a several-hour visit does not make one an expert in primary school education it was enough to familiarize us with the changes which have come about in new China's school system.

Sons and daughters of workers, shopkeepers, and handicraftsmen (who seldom had an opportunity to go to school before) are attending this modern primary school. Among the youngsters we met was the son of Kuo Mo-jo, vice-premier in the central government and a renowned scholar. With him at the time were two other boys: one, the son of a Moslem shopkeeper who had had several poems published in the Peking papers; the other, the son of a carpenter.

Tuition at the school is free and expenses during the term for items such as examination papers, special texts and extra medical care amount to an insignificant sum. Workers' children get preference in admittance. While there are still private primary schools in Peking, the trend is toward all being public in the near future.

In the first three years subjects include: Chinese, arithmetic, music, art and physical education. The older students continue with these and also take history, geography and natural sciences. Regular classes are held only in the mornings, and the afternoons are devoted to those activities pupils are most interested in.

Loose talk about "regimentation" in new China runs contrary to existing conditions. These afternoon pursuits are devoted to developing the child's natural bent: music, drawing, painting, science, writing, needlework and so forth. About two-thirds of the students take part in such activities, while those who are not passing in every subject devote more attention to catching up with subjects they are behind in. A point teachers make in all preparation work is to develop the creativeness of the pupil.

TEACHERS in China today know that they have a place in society. While, in the past, lip service was paid to teachers' "position," actually as a profession teaching was not very rewarding, socially or economically. For instance, at this school, there are many teachers who taught here during Kuomintang times when salaries were scarcely able to support two people at a subsistence level and there was no such thing as a salary during vacation or sick leave.

We talked to two assistant-principals: Mrs. Tseng Yun, twice a member of the Peking municipal government council and Mrs. Tao, a member of the standing committee of the All-China Association of Educationists who attended the conference to protect children's rights in Vienna last year. Mr. Gau, a teacher for more than 30 years, told us he had nothing to look forward to under the KMT but now he will be retired with a pension of 65 percent of his regular salary. He said that today a teacher earns enough to support five people with food, housing and clothing.

There are many women teachers at this school and there is a creche for those who have children. Teachers receive special allowances in addition to their regular salary, such as medical care for themselves and their families. If a teacher lives on the outskirts of Peking, there is a travel allowance. Women teachers get maternity leave with full pay. If a teacher's family has special difficulties it receives an extra allowance. Those with larger than average families get a special allowance of one bag of flour and 60 eggs per week.

Principal Wang Ching told us that because of the general all-around economic improvement special allowances for teachers have been increased. He also said that funds allotted to the school have gone up. In 1948, the last year of the Chiang Kai-shek régime, annual expenditure for the school amounted to the equivalent of 10,000 kilograms of rice. Last year, the Peking Municipal Government allocated the equivalent of 70,000 kilograms.

Books for Children

Shirley Ray Wood

AS OUR home is frequently turned into an informal—a very informal—children's library, I feel that I am a bit of an authority on the subject of children's literature. As soon as our front door is opened in the morning, there are four little neighbors on the sofa and three on the floor, who pour over the stack of brightly colored books.

To be sure, our little library is not patronized by youngsters alone; most of the men in the lane have enough education to write simple letters and grope through the morning newspaper, while the women have had no education at all in their childhood. The books are popular with all, from my baby—who now that she can walk steals the books and pretends to read—to the old grayheads. Nor is the appeal confined to the semi-literati. Pictorial reading material has always been popular in content, and is now of high quality as well.

A large amount of children's literature is now being turned out. Some books are for use in kindergartens and beginners' classes. Some are the "See the picture, know the word" lessons. And some are just stories.

The very youngest type of story material is the little booklet four by six inches, about 500 words long. Each page is a picture, with part of the story in large characters in one corner. These books cover many subjects. The characters are animals as often as humans, and engaged in cooperative living and work.

There is the usual book of number rhymes—one sparrow flying over one flower beside which stands one little boy, three dogs who see three children and wag three little tails, and so forth. A very good first reader, since much of it is repetitive, is the "Little Red Hen." This, of course, ends with the famous maxim: "He

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SHIRLEY RAY WOOD (Mrs. Y. P. Huang) was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas and attended Michigan State College. The mother of three children, she has lived in China for the past several years.

who does not work, neither shall he eat."

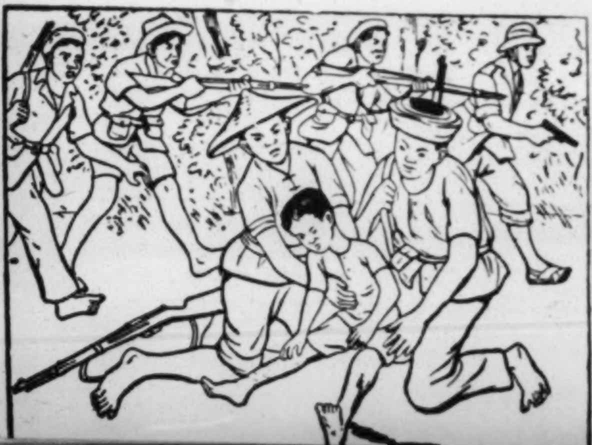
"The Little Negro Boy" (Sambo) is very popular. When, on seeing each other's loot the tigers return to demand more, the little boy (he has been left his trousers out of decency) shows a streak of brilliancy and climbs a palm tree, leaving them to fight it out. The sentence before he climbs his tree is "Hsiao Hei-jen yo banfa" — "The little Negro boy has a way." I bought the book when my boy was three, not an age to understand abstract ideas. For quite some time he thought a "banfa" was a tree.

One spring when all the children were raising tadpoles I bought a book about a school of them which had outwitted a large carp by persuading him to wait until they had fattened up and had their legs before he ate them. Then, of course, they jumped out onto the bank. Half the children in my neighborhood now know that a "nai-m'o-wer" is called "po-li-wog" in English.

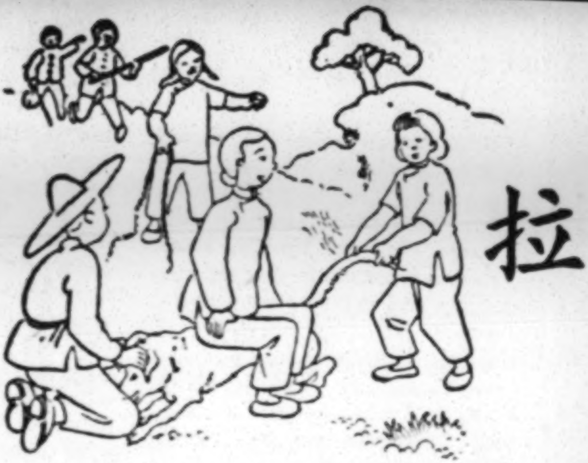
The most popular literature in all age groups is the pictorial serial. These are on the "comics" principle of consecutive illustrations with a line or two of explanation. Formerly they were largely a decadent, escapist literature, something like "Superman" dressed for Peking opera. They played up the old superstitions and feudal marriage relationships.

Some of them presented historical stories, however, and others were surreptitious exposés of the rotten social system. Some of the latter formerly were suppressed by the Kuomintang government.

Since liberation these books have been recognized as a valuable medium of education. Not only have the old artists



A little hero of Viet-Nam helps the People's Army capture enemy troops.



Each page in a book illustrates one Chinese character. This book tells the story of catching a wolf, and the character "la"—to pull—is explained.

been re-educated, but some well-known cartoonists have turned to this medium. The elaborate, confusing and badly drawn imitations of ancient art have given way to clear, precise pictures, workmanship praised in artistic circles.

One booklet tells the story of Ho Chien-hsiu, a young girl mill worker who revolutionized work on fine yarn, and set every industry to looking for a similar key to more efficient production. There are books on the production and use of coal, wheat and other products, several fine booklets on general sanitation and specific infectious diseases which appeared during the 1952 health and sanitation campaign, and of course the Marriage Law, article by article, with illustrations and explanations.

As my children are all so small, I generally buy stories about children, but they cover the same range of subjects. There are little heroes and heroines from Korea, Malaya, Viet-Nam, the 8th Route Army and the Anti-Japanese war. Most of them are connected with guerrilla or people's resistance movements. There are a number of character-building stories about the Young Pioneers.

One such story is that of the intelligent and talented Hwa-li, who was also lazy and disliked criticism, and refused to draw pictures for the wall-newspaper, finally walking out of a meeting in a huff. The story goes on to show that his friends simply left him alone. Lonely and unhappy, Hwa-li finally realized the benefits of cooperation, and the book ends with Hwa-li planning a poster of Young Pioneers marching together into the future, a poster illustrating International Children's Day.

Such stories seem to make an impression on the children, particularly those who have entered the Pioneers. One 10-year-old neighbor was a holy little terror when he moved into the lane. He has been gradually improving, and he told me after reading this story, "Huang Ma-Ma, these stories teach us to correct our errors and improve our characters."

Largely because many of the adult readers are country people, I have bought a number of books on mutual-aid teams, stories which show that the efficient division of labor lightens the work for all and improves the harvest. Books of this type have not only publicized government programs, but have also criticized and corrected errors made in carrying them out.

There is the story of the "Little Yellow Cow" who was used by the mutual-aid teams so enthusiastically that the poor animal did not have time to eat its breakfast, nor did the owner himself receive any benefit. Things were eventually straightened out to the satisfaction of all, including the Little Yellow Cow for whom the team set children to collecting green grass daily.

I find that the taste of my neighbors, big and small, differs little from that of folks anywhere. The boys like hero and war stories, the older girls like fairy stories and tales of women heroines—the bitter with the sweet—and preferably a happy ending. The little ones just like anything with pictures.

The bigger children themselves decided to keep my house in order. After I had clicked my tongue a few times over the jumble, one of them came to me in the kitchen one day. "Huang Ma-Ma," he said, "they left your books all messed up and I straightened them for you." Now the children keep themselves and each other and the books in order.

When I look over the literature available to the children of today, I have no worry that my children won't grow up healthy-minded, socially useful citizens.

BOOKS FOR NEW CHINA

TO meet the demand of millions of people who have recently emerged from illiteracy the People's Educational Publishing House is publishing a total of 420,000,000 textbooks in 1953.

An indication of the rapidly growing number of working people and their children now attending school is seen in the fact that close to 200,000,000 textbooks were published by this spring for middle and primary schools and workers' and peasants' spare-time schools.

CHINA NOTES

China-Ceylon Trade

THE five-year trade agreement signed with China last October has helped break an economic impasse in Ceylon brought on by an accumulation of rubber stocks and a critical rice shortage.

The agreement safeguards the sale of rubber to China at a fair price and ensures an ample supply of rice for Ceylon. The threat of unemployment, which loomed large over the heads of 300,000 Ceylonese rubber workers, has been dispelled. At the same time, light has been shed on how Ceylon's economy was brought to a state of crisis.

A Ceylonese government statement has revealed that the US government had earlier agreed to assist Ceylon in the purchase of American rice at competitive prices prevailing in the open market, while refusing to buy Ceylon rubber on the same terms.

Taking advantage of its position as the main buyer of rubber —chief export for several Southeast Asian countries—the Americans have forced these countries to sell rubber at low prices. Rubber prices have been knocked down by the US reducing its imports, boycotting sales and increasing its synthetic rubber production.

The price of rubber, 81 cents a pound in June 1951, was down to 38 cents a pound by April 1952. Result was a sharp reduction in production and in rubber exports by Southeast Asian countries.

Ceylon was hard hit by US rubber policy. Rubber is one of the three major exports on which this small country relies for the import of much needed rice. While the US drastically shaved the purchasing price for Ceylonese rubber, it sold rice of an inferior quality to Ceylon at prices 20 percent above those for Burmese rice, resulting in a large accumulation of rubber and a shortage of rice in Ceylon.

Since the China-Ceylon trade agreement went into effect Washington has changed its tactics, and by means of shipping controls, forcing Burma to cut rice shipments to Ceylon, and stopping its own supplies of refined sulphur to Ceylon, has tried to break the agreement.

On February 26, the Ceylon government officially stated that it could not be blindly subservient to the US embargo on trade with China.

Since that time, Washington has continued in its efforts to force its will upon Ceylon. It has attempted to enlist its British "ally" in its pressure moves. Early in March, "informed Washington sources predicted that Britain and the US would make a new approach to Ceylon to curtail rubber shipments to Communist China." (*Reuter*, Washington).

According to *Reuter*, there was general agreement in Congressional and State Department circles that something should be done. However, "there was an absence of any immediate specific suggestions as to how Ceylon might be persuaded to halt her China trade, particularly in view of the five-year trade agreement."

Growth of Mutual-Aid Teams

TWO out of every three Chinese peasants will be farming in cooperative teams by the end of 1953. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, 85,000,000 peasants are expected to enrol in the mutual-aid team movement this year, bringing membership in these teams to 260,000,000.

The ministry listed three reasons for the rapid development toward organized farming in the Chinese countryside:

First is land reform which has been followed by the growth of mutual-aid teams. For example, in the Northeast, where land reform was completed early in 1948, more than 80 percent of the rural population are now mutual-aid team members cultivating 84 percent of the total farmland. The percentage of organized peasants in other areas ranges from 20 to 60 percent, depending on how long ago land reform took place.

Second is the success of the initial mutual-aid teams which encouraged the peasants to join. For instance, Southwest China team members saved on the average 30 percent of their labor time through teamwork in 1952. This enabled them to devote themselves to careful cultivation, the building of irrigation canals, the sinking of wells and side-occupations. Mutual-aid team harvests averaged 15 percent above those of individual farmers.

Third is the guidance and help given by the government. Organized peasants have been given priority for bank loans, deliveries of new type farm utensils, improved seeds and technical aid. Plans for this year call for still more help to mutual-aid teams, including training millions of team leaders in farming techniques. Thousands of new horse-drawn weeders, sowers, ploughs and harvesters also will be supplied to mutual-aid teams by the government.

The rapid development of mutual-aid teams is laying the foundation for the gradual transformation of tens of millions of individual cultivators into collective farmers. Simultaneously, it is greatly increasing the nation's farm output. In 1952, for instance, 2,200,000 mutual-aid teams joined in the national emulation campaign which brought about a 15 percent increase in grain output and a 23 percent rise in cotton.

The present mutual-aid teams are a popular form of collective labor based on individual economy. Already thousands have joined agricultural producer cooperatives, a higher form of collective labor. Land is still individually owned, but is farmed so as to make the best use of all the land, with the help of modern machinery. Most of China's cooperatives are in the Northeast and North China where the peasants have had longer experience in working collectively. The next stage, collective farming, also has started in China. There are now 23 collective farms which are stimulating the expanding mutual-aid movement.

Women in Industry

ONE factory manager out of six in China's all-important textile industry is a woman. Describing the large contribution made by women to the increasing progress of the industry, woman Vice-Minister of the Textile Ministry Chang Chin-chiu, in an article in the Peking fortnightly *New Observer*, reports that more than half the workers in the cotton mills are women. Many of them are labor heroines and model workers. "Thousands have been promoted to responsible posts. Some have become technicians and directors," she writes.

As an example of the rise in women's efficiency in the textile plants, the vice-minister noted that women workers in state-owned cotton mills tended twice as many looms and spindles per head in 1952 as in 1949, the time of the founding of the new Chinese government. Moreover, last year, their average hourly output per loom increased 27 percent over 1949 and the average hourly output per thousand spindles went up 33 percent in the same period.

Concluding her article, Vice-Minister Chang Chin-chiu predicts that tens of thousands more women will be drawn into China's ever-expanding textile industry as the nation's plans of large-scale construction get into full swing.

INDUSTRIAL accidents in China have dropped sharply. The number of fatal accidents in industry fell by 39 percent and serious accidents by 38 percent in 1952 compared with 1951, according to a report released by the Ministry of Labor.

Regular inspection has been instituted in factories and mines with positive results. In nearly all state-owned enterprises, special health and safety protection organizations have been set up with workers participating. In coal mines and power plants, successful emulation campaigns have been carried out aimed at

Chinese People Protest

ORGANIZATIONS and individuals in China have added their voices to the world-wide protest against the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Peasant families in China are as familiar with the issues involved in the framed-up "atomic spy" charges of the US government against the young couple, parents of two small children, as are trade unionists and intellectuals.

As far back as last December, a public statement demanding justice for the Rosenbergs was signed by the most widely representative organizations in China, including the All-China Federation of Labor.

Among the organizations which have issued public protests are: the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the China Peace Committee, the All-China Federation of Democratic Women, the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth, student and literary and art circles. Christian churches and religious associations have also strongly protested the death sentence for the Rosenbergs.

Twenty-three Chinese Christian leaders, in March, urged Christians all over the world, particularly those in the US, to act to prevent the murder of the Rosenbergs. Signed by well-known leaders such as Wu Yao-tsung, Wu Yi-fang, Y.C. Tu, Z. T. Kaung and P. Lindel Tsen, their joint stateeliminating work accidents.

The Ministry of Labor report emphasizes that labor protection in China is a direct concern of the government. Some 119 regulations and rules on labor protection have been issued by the ministry as well as by other government departments related to industry.

Under the Chiang Kai-shek government, labor protection measures were virtually non-existant. There were few health and safety facilities in factories and mines. In collieries, for instance, tens of thousands of miners died of gas explosions alone because of lack of proper ventilating equipment. Occupational diseases were rampant among industrial workers and miners.

Injustice to Rosenbergs

ment said: "We will uphold to the last the just demand of the Rosenbergs, a good and honest couple, because their case deeply involves the dignity, value and conscience of mankind."

A few days before this statement was made 15,000 Catholics in Tientsin issued a public declaration of protest against the US government's intention to carry out the execution of the Rosenbergs.

Noted jurist and President of the Supreme People's Court, Shen Chun-ju has declared that there is a complete absence of credible evidence throughout the entire court proceedings against the Rosenbergs. To convict people of "espionage" on the basis of their political views or social outlook is a brutal violation of the most elementary principles of law, he stated.

Chinese scientists have issued a joint message stating that the verdict in the Rosenberg case is "completely devoid of decency and reason." Yuan Han-ching, Deputy Secretary-General of the All-China Association for the Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge, in appealing to US scientists to act on behalf of the Rosenbergs, noted that the "atomic secrets" supposedly divulged by the couple were already common knowledge.

Formerly a hang-out for racketeers——

"The Great World"

——is now a popular entertainment center

ALMOST every Shanghailander knows the Ta Shih Chieh ("The Great World") amusement center, and knows of its notoriety in the old days. Not so many know that it originally was what might be considered a modern social club catering mainly to what are known in the west as "tired businessmen."

With a history of nearly 40 years, Ta Shih Chieh was built by Huang Chu-chiu, a local speculator. Huang, a penniless man when he first hit this "adventurers' paradise," gradually, with his "intelligence" and connections with foreign officials, amassed a fortune in the form of nearly 100 big shops, banks, and the notorious entertainment center, Ta Shih Chieh.

When first built, Ta Shih Chieh was not open to the general public, being kept as an exclusive playground for a handful of privileged and wealthy men. The guests came in their leisure hours to enjoy themselves and entertain their friends, eating, drinking, attending theaters, etc. However, during the late 'twenties, Huang faced bankruptcy, and was forced to sell all his enterprises to liquidate his debts. Ta Shih Chieh was sold at auction under the auspices of the French imperialists, who at the time controlled the sector of Shanghai in which it was located, to a top Shanghai gangster.

Through the years Ta Shih Chieh declined from an exclusive rich men's "club," until it became, in the last years of the Kuomintang regime, a hang-out for prostitutes, pickpockets and other social derelicts.

Then this big building was a daily and nightly scene of cursing, yelling, shouting and quarreling which made it a veritable bedlam. Under the misrule of the Kuomintang, sordid and dirty petty rackets began to raise their heads. Soldiers intruded without tickets, and clashes between soldiers and gangsters were daily incidents. Prostitutes openly solicited prospective customers; pickpockets were everywhere.

Most deplorable were the living conditions of the exploited actors and staff, victims of gang rule. A major part of their wages flowed into the pockets of the gangster owner, and the players, besides being exploited, were victimized by the currency inflation going on at the time. Often, a day's work would hardly buy a meal, and most of the employees were on the verge of starvation.

SINCE liberation, Ta Shih Chieh has been in a continuous process of regeneration into a decent recreational center. It is orderly and clean; in the second half of 1951 a complete renovation was made, with the assistance of the municipal government, and all the stages of the center's many theaters were rebuilt in accordance with modern design and facilities.

Entertainment is plentiful and varied in this four-story building in downtown Shanghai. With the exception of the ground floor, each story boasts three or four theaters with a seating capacity of 400 or 500 per theater. Almost every type of drama is available—the characteristic opera of Peking and other cities, all differing from each other, in addition to movies and variety shows—acrobatic, magic, juggling, and a host of others.

Ta Shih Chieh has made its mark in theatrical circles. Many of the country's well-known players, before rising

In 1937 during the Japanese War a bomb fell in front of "The Great World," which is located on one of Shanghai's busiest corners, and hundreds of people were killed or injured.

A scene from the popular opera "Yen Tang Mountain" performed by the Northeast Drama Troupe.

to stardom, gave performances there.

If one is not interested in theaters, he can enjoy himself in the ping-pong room, the billiard room, the ballroom or on the roof garden which overlooks the city. In the summer it boasts a skating rink and open-air movie theater. Many eateries serve delicious snacks and soft drinks at reasonable prices.

For the first time in their lives, Ta Shih Chieh's 800 employees are earning enough to feed themselves. An outstanding player can earn Y2,000,000 a month, while the lowest salary is about Y400,000. Now, all the super-profits do not go to the owner; some is used to improve service to the public.

Today, these Thespians, who were formerly exploited and oppressed, are able to devote time and energy to the perfection of their technique, and lead a fuller life than ever before. In addition, they participate in study groups as do all Chinese since liberation. The study programs are varied, including current affairs, new laws and regulations, national movements, and international affairs. The programs are sponsored either by their own trade union or other theaters and troupes.

Changes in the drama have also been made. Plays glorifying the old feudal ideology are being discarded in favor of new ones, which emphasize the country's various new movements. Recently, in the nationwide movement to publicize the new marriage law, nearly all the theaters in Ta Shih Chieh put on shows dealing with marital problems. A most popular opera is one which depicts how the feudal marriage system victimized two young lovers.

RECENTLY, a new clinic was set up in Ta Shih Chieh—interestingly enough, in a room which once held a Buddhist shrine. The wooden images housed therein were supposed to circumvent evil spirits and guarantee a prosperous business. They were finally moved out during last year's nationwide house-cleaning movement, and the room turned into a clinic. Staffed with both doctors and nurses, the clinic provides free medical treatment for visitors.

Pickpockets and ladies of the evening have vanished. These unfortunates of the past have been sent to special reformatories for training by the government in its drive to reclaim social derelicts inherited from the old society. All brothels in Shanghai were closed down in November 1951, and the members of the sisterhood who plied their trade in Ta Shih Chieh have now found other work.

Since superstition can no longer deceive the people in new China, a large number of fortune tellers in this center volunteered to change their occupation. But no compulsory measures are taken against those who have real trouble in adjusting to a new occupation. They are permitted to continue their business until able to adopt a new trade. In recent years, their outlook has also changed greatly.

Because of rising wages, admission tickets (Y2,000, equal to less than 10 cents in US currency) are well within the budget of the average man, and nearly every day the place is packed. During the spring festival holidays, the center was visited by more than 45,000 people a day, and the place was forced to close its doors several times in order to relieve congestion.

Today, this formerly notorious amusement center is becoming increasingly popular among the people in Shanghai.

— *YANG LI-HSIN*

A Widow Remarries

impossible before——a reality today

BEFORE Hu Yin had reached the age of 14, she had seen her older sister and sister-in-law, her dead brother's widow, sold for silver; then indeed she knew that there was no escape from the fate in store for her. With the older girls gone, there was still no alleviation in the wretched condition in which the old couple lived in a small town in Szechuen. Hu Yin, then 13, was sold by her father for 32 pieces of silver.

"Think of it, comrade! Only 13!" said the widow herself with a deep sigh.

"It was November, and the weather was chilly. My mother was heart-broken; when the sedan chair came for me she wept bitterly. The bearers carried me to the door of a big house, the house of a landlord where my intended husband lived as the landlord's cashier. I was forcibly pulled inside, to where the ceremony took place . . . Confused, I went by mistake into the landlord's room.

"He swore horribly, and my new husband started abusing me, angrily striking me on the side of my head. That night I sat up till daybreak, and shuddered whenever my eyes fell on my husband, a 28-year-old man with a ferocious temper....

"Insane with fright, I struggled from his arms, and cried and screamed hysterically. My husband, enraged, bound my arms and legs with rope, and left me in the courtyard. A maid who worked in the house came stealthily and untied the rope; I decided to return to my home. I groped my way through the darkness, back to the arms of my mother.

"Together we sobbed out our woe. 'Darling,' she wept, 'I understand you, but it is our fate to suffer. I advise you to flee for your life.'

"I fled to my elder sister's home. A week later my husband, with the aid of my father, found me. I knew there was no escape except by death, and ran toward the river.

Father caught me and entreated me not to, saying that my death would mean that he also would die at their hands. My husband, with the aid of servants, drove me home; my father was terribly beaten, and so was I. It was in the dead of winter, comrade.

But they stripped and beat me.

"My front teeth were knocked out, and my right wrist broken. Father came to see me, but said not a word, and turned away, tears streaming down his cheeks. In the old society women were not regarded as human beings. No, not in the least! One month later I was again sold for 50 silver dollars by my husband.

"This man was 10 years my senior and in his family I gave birth to eight children, of whom only two lived. In the spring of 1949 the ruthless Kuomintang pressganged him. A short while later he fled home, but soon died of illness and worry.

"Difficult it was to support my children and myself. We lived on banana skins and tree leaves until they died of starvation."

Overcome with emotion, she paused, then looked up with a new light in her eyes.

"In the winter of the same year, liberation came with the arrival of the People's Liberation Army. I heard of the new marriage law—it seemed it could not be true! But the Women's Association of my street called on me and assured me there was a place for me in the new society, which belonged to us people. I joined a production group in my street; I worked actively and learned new things.

"Would anyone marry me for love? I was 37, illiterate, and still wretchedly poor. I was not entirely convinced of the 'wonders' of the new society.

"Some months later, in a competition drive I came out first. A man named Liu working in another group came to visit our group, and we got acquainted. He too had suffered; we felt great sympathy for each other as he told me of his life as a rickshaw puller oppressed and exploited by the KMT police.

"Like me, he had had no chance at education in the old society which was the enemy of the people. Last year he joined the trade union; after eight months in literacy class he could read papers and write short simple letters.

"I admired him—and he was kind enough to help me and encourage me to join a literacy class. Now I too can write; last week I wrote a comfort letter to our Volunteers in Korea. Liu and I now work in the same factory and recently we got married."

She stood up and heaved a sigh of relief. "In 30 long years of suffering I did not know nor did I ever expect to taste happiness. But now I am truly happy."

— ***P. Y. Wang***

Liberation has brought many changes to this province on China's southwest frontier

Report from Yunnan

Chang Shu-I

PEASANT BROTHERS is what they are called today, the formerly despised "rustics" who came in the old days to visit Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, and walked its streets with averted eyes and uncertain steps. Many peasants have now been invited to visit Peking and even the Soviet Union; they go with head up to the Wuhua Shan, the district where the provincial people's government buildings are located.

Yunnan, on China's southwest frontier, is a province marked by extraordinary natural beauty, and endowed with a great potential wealth of mineral resources; in former days beauty and potential wealth meant little to the 17,000,000 hard-working inhabitants, many of whom belonged to numerous minority races, and accordingly suffered discrimination and indignities.

Now, more than 3,000,000 farmers of all nationalities have joined the Peasants' Association, and model farmers participate in the emulation drives for increased production throughout the province.

Through the help and support of the nation's financial and trading companies, since the rent reduction movement and land reform, agricultural production is ever increasing. Various localities have begun to take a keen interest in popularizing afforestation and small-scale irrigation works.

Militiamen number more than 280,000, proving the devotion of the peasants to their new government, and their determination to suppress counter-revolutionary elements, and guard the border.

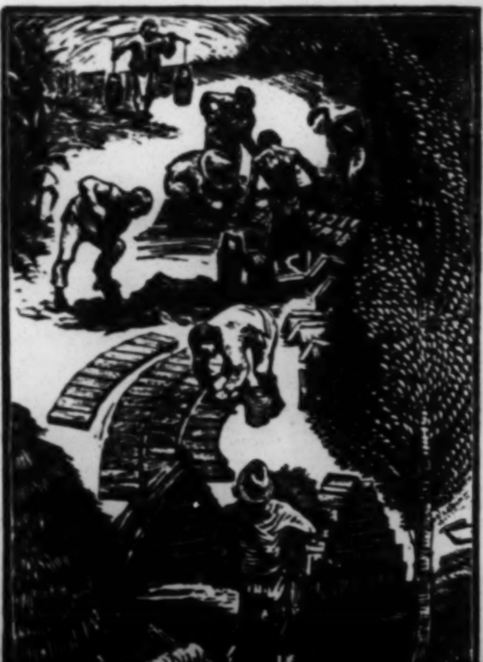
AFTER V-J Day, the happier prospect once anticipated was soon replaced by a gloomier atmosphere. With the "reorganization" of the old provincial government in 1946, the terror and misery of the Kunming residents were beyond description. Many small businesses went bankrupt in the depression wilfully forced by a group of unscrupulous profiteers who became fatter and fatter by dint of manipulating the whole business community.

Many shops and schools were forced to close down, swelling the ranks of beggars and thieves in the streets. Cases of armed robbery in broad daylight were frequent; carrying a sum of money was a dangerous thing to do.

At the time of liberation, many Kuomintang agents plotted to remain in south Yunnan to work against the government. Just after liberation many areas were still chaotic and turbulent; however, the disruption caused by bandits, despot-landlords, and Chiang Kai-shek's secret agents soon came to an end, thanks to the People's Liberation Army and the Security Armed Forces, with the wholehearted support of the people.

The band of fierce robbers led by the notorious Kiang Shao-yun, and other bandits who occupied so many districts along the main highways throughout the province, have been rounded up, and these one-time outlaws as well as other thieves, idlers, beggars and prostitutes have undergone a period of reformation and training to become useful citizens. Some were given money to return to their home districts, and receive land in the land reform.

In the last days of Chiang Kai-shek's regime, the unemployed in the city numbered 32,217, including 13,000 young intellectuals deprived of schooling. By October of 1951 this number had been reduced to 1,253. When the Measures for Employment of Labor came into effect at the beginning of last year, the



Making Bricks.

— by Ku Yuan

problem of unemployment was solved.

The creative power of the workers is fast developing. In addition to Model Worker Doong Fu-sheng who fixed the furnace under the fierce temperature of 1,300 degrees Centigrade (see *China Monthly Review*, October, 1952) there are many others. Chao Hsueh-cheng, 18-year-old girl worker in the Yunnan Cotton Mill, devised a very clever method of joining yarn breaks which has been introduced everywhere.

Wang En-teh and Liu Chieh, two drivers in the state-owned Yunnan Transportation Company created a new economy and haulage record which suppasses the present standard by 105 percent. Niu Yu-sun's group in a local metal factory has succeeded in developing a high-speed cutting method with the result that every month, production targets can be overfulfilled before schedule.

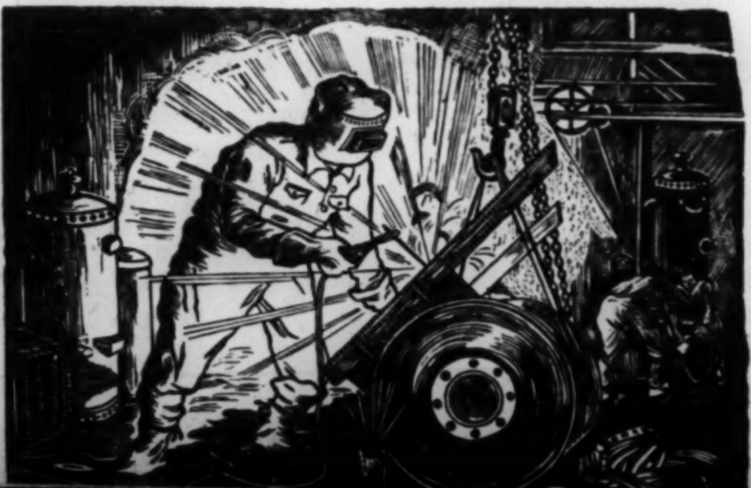
Investment in industry during 1952 showed an increase of 148 percent above 1951, and the cost of production in industry has been lowered.

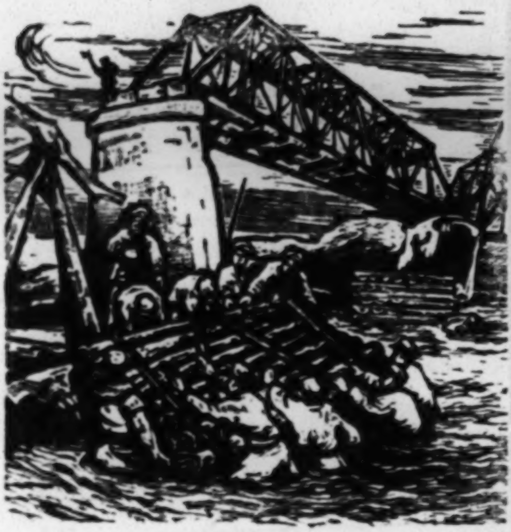
Workers' living quarters, bath houses, cooperatives, clubs, and sanitary installations have beeen built. A magnificent workers' cultural palace is to be completed before this year's May Day.

ACHIEVEMENTS in the sphere of culture and education are worth noting. Freed from economic oppression, the peasants are very anxious to learn to read and

Electroplating —

— *by Wu Chin-ming*





Rush Repair of Lai Ho Bridge.

— by Tai Tieh-lang

write. To cite one example: some time ago a peasant living in the little village where I personally took part in the land reform wrote me:

" . . . To quench the thirst for culture, our village people's government has established a night school for the villagers. The enrollment has increased from 400 to almost 1,000 including old farmers. Besides, the number of newspaper reading groups has doubled, and is now 30. Some aged farmers are too old to learn, but feel lost if they do not listen to the news.

"Those who join the night school work very hard; when resting in the fields, they practice writing with a stick. Some farmers take their papers along wherever they go . . . about 40 are able to read the *Yunnan Farmers' Paper* without much difficulty and can take notes tolerably well at meetings."

Schools are open to all; students from the families of workers and peasants predominate, and registration has more than doubled. In my own college, the number of village school teachers who were being sent to receive a higher education rose from 30 in 1951 to 300 this year.

Industrial and commercial enterprises have revived, and after the conclusion of the Wu Fan campaign (against illegal practices of businessmen), many more made their appearance. In 1951, there were 7,446 enterprises in all; by August of 1952 the number rose to 13,014 of which two-thirds were commercial.

In order to expand sales of native products, to promote urban-rural interflow of trade, to organize marketing of industrial goods in the countryside and to stimulate production, a Commodities Exchange Conference was held last summer. Trade delegations from neighboring major cities like Canton and Kweiyang also brought their native products in exchange for ours.

During the eight-day conference the transactions amounted to Y300,000,000,000; this has played a vital part in stimulating urban-rural economy.

Another important factor in local trade is the highways, which formerly totalled 3,420 miles, of which 2,307 miles were ruined by the KMT soldiers. Immediately after the new government was set up, steps were taken to restore communications throughout the province. About 2,350 miles were speedily repaired and 1,625 miles of new roads were constructed.

Installation of telegraphic and telephone lines increased by 48 percent, and the total length of postal routes is now 85 percent above 1949.

THE importance of the people's health is well understood. A 55-day hygiene exhibition with an attendance of more than 440,000 was held, which brought home to the public the meaning of the health drive.

During clean-up days, many trucks were used (for the first time in Kunming) to clean up some decades-long accumulations of filth. Today there are squares and lawns for children throughout the city.

In the old days 80 percent of Yunnan's rural districts had not one single health organization. The few district clinics existed on paper only. Now 125 district clinics have been established.

Achievements have been scored under three main principles: preventive medicine; service for workers, farmers and soldiers; and consolidation of western and native schools of medicine. With vaccination and training, smallpox, plague and cholera have been brought under control.

Two hundred maternity clinics have been set up, and thousands of midwives have learned modern methods, with the result that the infant mortality has dropped from 17 to three percent. Thousands of government health workers have been trained.

Women, side by side with men, play an active part in developing Yunnan. They have done everything from holding leading positions in government organizations to making thousands of pairs of shoes which they donated to the Volunteers in Korea.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

US Arsenal in Japan

JAPANESE arms as well as US dollars are helping to keep the fires of war in the Far East burning. Japan has become America's sub-arsenal in Asia.

Since the start of the Korean war the US has placed orders totaling $950,000,000 with Japanese war industries. In the first two months of 1953, America ordered more than $17,000,000 worth of munitions. On March 14, *Reuter* reported from Tokyo that the Japanese Minister of International Trade said "that United States orders for Japanese arms this year will be twice as big as last year."

After discussing American procurement orders with US Ambassador to Japan Robert Murphy, the minister told reporters that American forces placed more than $310,000,000 worth of orders with Japan last year.

The minister also said he had promised that the Japanese government would cut taxes on imported machinery, reduce interest on bank loans and give arms production the same priorities as dollar exports. Steps would also be taken to bring down the price of coal, steel and electricity (*Reuter*).

Japanese war plants are also producing for other parts of Asia. The French Embassy in Tokyo recently announced that its government was sending a military mission to Tokyo to negotiate a US$20,000,000 purchase of military supplies from Japan for the Vietnam front.

The Nippon Sangyo Company has been asked to sell 1,000,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition to the Thailand government. The Nippon Tokushiuko Company is manufacturing mortars for Chiang Kai-shek's remnant army on Taiwan.

ACCORDING to another *Reuter* dispatch (Tokyo, March 19), critics of the Japanese government, including conservatives, "are protesting strongly against moves which, they say, are taking [Japan] back to pre-war days of nationalistic, centralized control. Liberals are worried by the reappearance of Japan's militarists in openly organized nationalistic societies."

Government legislation introduced in the Diet calls for restrictions on strikes in power and coal industries and a denial of the right to strike to all public employees. A new education bill would centralize control of all school teachers and ban them from taking part in politics.

Small businessmen's organizations appealed to the Yoshida government to kill its proposed changes in the anti-monopoly law which are backed by budding cartels and big business combinations. An official of the large Yawata Iron and Steel Company declared in the nation's leading newspaper, *Asahi*, that revision of the anti-monopoly law is needed to "promote the export business and to make stronger the foundation of industry in Japan."

On March 25, the government announced that Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States had agreed to consider clemency sentence reductions for all Japanese war criminals.

KMT Aggression in Burma

TWELVE-thousand Chiang Kai-shek troops, who fled to Burma after their defeat in south China in late 1949 and early 1950, have been accused of spreading a "reign of terror" in that country in a 1,500-word memorandum from the Burmese government calling upon the United Nations to brand Chiang's troops as aggressors.

The memorandum, deemed of "importance and urgent" by the Burmese foreign minister, said: "This aggression is indicated by the refusal of the Kuomintang forces to submit to disarmament and internment in accordance with international law and by their acts of hostility against the forces of the government of the Union of Burma and by their depredations against the civilian population."

Five days later, on March 30, the Burmese government's permanent UN delegate told *AP* in Rangoon that captured documents proved conclusively that American nationals have been fighting with KMT forces in Burma under General Li Mi.

The delegate, James Barrington, said two staff officers would fly to New York with him bringing photostats of captured documents and other evidence proving that there is a direct link between Li Mi's forces in Burma and the Chiang government on Taiwan. They also had evidence that American nationals are involved in training and equipping these KMT troops, *AP* reported.

Discrimination in India

LAST July, Lanka Sundaram, member of Parliament and editor of the New Delhi weekly *Commerce and Industry*, told the Indian Parliament: "The present employment policy of non-Indian companies in our midst today . . . has not been very happy. Data collected at the highest possible level show that the employment policy of foreign companies in our midst today has become discriminatory toward Indian nationals."

Since Sundaram made his statement, discrimination has continued to grow. Conservative journals such as steel magnate Birla's *Hindustan Times* have commented on the subject.

Growing public opinion and a barrage of questions in Parliament brought some government action. There was a brief flutter in foreign business circles when the government issued questionnaires "requesting" particulars about scales of pay and conditions of service of Indian and non-Indian employees. However, uneasiness was soon put aside.

The *India Bulletin* (No. 52), a top-level confidential circular of foreign chambers of commerce, assured members that "fortunately the questionnaire has been helpfully framed" and that "the squall will pass over."

The questionnaires were answered as follows: 350 firms gave no reply; 50 firms gave no other information than that they employed Indians; about 1,300 firms replied. But most of these supplied incomplete figures and deliberately inflated the number of Indians at junior executive levels by including typists, stenographers and clerks in this category.

Even from these scrappy returns it was revealed that more than 75 percent of the administrative and technical posts in foreign firms are monopolized by foreigners and the overwhelming majority of Indians are in lower grade positions.

Reaction to the questionnaire was arrogant in many instances. Some big firms threatened to withdraw from India if the government "interfered" in their affairs, the *Hindustan Times* reported on February 9, 1953.

THE Indian press has reported that foreigners working in India are given more than double the pay of their Indian counterparts, besides being provided with automobiles, free luxurious dwellings and all conceivable facilities. Even newly recruited youngsters are posted over senior Indian executives.

Arbitrary supercession or demotion is common, and if an Indian protests he is curtly told to take it or leave it.

Recent figures show that more than 1,600 foreign firms are operating in India. Of these, 1,350 are registered abroad. In addition, there are a number calling themselves "Indian," but as the *Hindustan Times* has pointed out: "Some firms work under the facade of an Indian name. These pseudo-Indian firms have one or two Indian directors who have little responsibility in its work or direction."

Storm in Filipino Teacup

AMERICA'S one-time Philippine favorite, incumbent President Quirino, appears to have slipped in Washington's estimation. Beholden to the US for his present position, Quirino, in anticipation of this year's November presidential elections, has begun some early shouting about "American interference" in the campaign which observers (*UP*, March 20, 1953) predict will be a "mud-splattered, low-blow and possibly bloody affair."

Following a declaration by former Defense Secretary Magsaysay, groomed as Quirino's November opponent, that the US had lost confidence in the president's administration, Quirino, at a press conference, told the US Embassy "to keep out of the country's internal politics." (*Reuter*, Manila, March 29)

The Speaker of the House of Representatives said that the US ambassador to the Philippines should deny rumors that he had reached some agreement with opposition officials on Magsaysay's candidacy. The following day, (*Agence France Presse*, March 30) the US ambassador had no comment "on the mounting charges of American interference."

According to *UP* in Manila, "There is little difference between the two major parties on the political scale . . . party hatchet-men are already stirring up batches of mud for the campaign. More than eight months before the election and before either candidate has been chosen, the papers here have been banner-lining charges, counter-charges and allegations from both sides."

Whatever the outcome, the US State Department is bent on having its man in office. Neither candidate could go far without American backing. Charges and counter-charges are nothing more than a storm in a teacup.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

AMERICAN SHADOW OVER INDIA. L. Natarajan. 314 pages. Foreword by J. C. Kumarappa. People's Publishing House Ltd., Bombay. Reviewed by D. F.

A DEBT of gratitude is owed Mr. Natarajan for gathering and bringing to light the machinations of American big business and the US State Department in India and her neighbors. Making no claim to sensational inside information, the story would be difficult to believe were it not so thoroughly documented from sources as "unimpeachable" as the New York Times and officials in Washington.

Many intellectuals in India believe that their nation is sinking ever deeper into the slough of another colonialism. After reading this book, there can be no doubt that, whether or not India actually is at present a US colony, official America so considers her. US politicians have minced no words in speaking publicly of the danger of India being "lost" from the "free world."

This book explodes the myth that official America ever worked for Indian independence. From the president—notably Theodore Roosevelt and Wilson—down, the emphasis was on suppression and persecution of Indians at home and abroad. Secretary of State Cordell Hull tells in his confidential Memoirs of effort in the US as late as 1943, to play down the Indian situation and keep down anti-British sentiment.

During World War II, under the control of Britain, herself dominated by the US, India was forced to curtail the growing of food crops in order to supply jute for the US forces. This, and the refusal to ship supplementary food, resulted in 5,000,000 Indian deaths. This war ended with India under terrific debt to the US and to Britain, herself a debtor, and the Americans were able to take over more and more Indian industry.

AFTER the war, India became a dumping-ground for useless American manufactures. US exporters dumped inferior goods at prices from 10 to 15 percent over domestic levels for quality merchandise. What India needed most was machinery, and very little of this was sent. Moreover, by lop-sided tariff concessions, India lost several million dollars in 1948-49.

Unable to buy the required machinery, some Indian officials and businessmen welcomed American investments and aid. Expecting at first to control the management and policy themselves, they were soon disillusioned. The Americans demanded, and got, high profits as well as full control over every phase of industry.

Ambassador Henry F. Grady toured the country demanding changes in the internal economic policy of India, to allow for concessions to private American capital.

POINT FOUR stands revealed, in the best exposition yet, as neither bold nor new, but best shown up in this quotation from an American paper: "We need the availability of raw materials without assuming the burden of conquering and ruling every country where they are to be found."

The smell of oil should be an irritation to Indian nostrils. Standard-Vacuum, Caltex, Burma-Shell are building ever-expanding refineries because, we have it from no less an authority than the New York Times: "In the event of another world war...... refineries in India would mean an immense saving in construction, maintenance and manpower for refining facilities that otherwise would have to be established elsewhere farther from the probable scene of conflict." To Americans, India is merely a base for strategic installations.

Meanwhile, the cream of the profits goes of course to you-know-whom. The limited participation of Indian capital is expected to make the Indians ready to defend the cause of the foreign companies in the event of this expected war. The agreements with the oil companies tie the Indian government hand and foot in a manner which should be diligently studied and pondered by every literate Indian—as well as foreigners.

AMERICAN "AID" turns out to be a mess of skulduggery at times so crude that even Paul Hoffman was moved to say that only "internationally immature" Americans "would like to make Indian school children salute the US flag each day as the price of wheat to India." The grain was not given to India; she bought it, and went deeply into debt to America, after she had been allowed to starve for a while to show her the importance of "cooperation"; for instance, that she should change her foreign policy and support the US with regard to China.

The whole thing was accomplished with what the author calls "the pressures and insults to which India was subjected by American politicians." Also newspapers—the New York Daily Mirror, a Hearst paper, sneered at "Arabs and Hindus and folks like that" for daring to oppose the American proposal to declare China an aggressor.

WITHIN three years, US investments in India equalled those of Britain for two centuries. Because of its monopoly position the US can pay less for its imports and charge more for its exports.

Although India has bargaining power because of her urgently-needed jute, rubber, tin, mica and tungsten, the Indian government and businessmen have accepted the unequal relationship, hoping thereby to depress the workers and repress socialist ideas.

"American policy towards India is based on a world policy aimed at creating and strengthening an American bloc for a struggle against the Soviet Union......" The Indian people were and are staunchly opposed to imperialism, yet their government has time and time again knuckled under to the US and its war aims.

AFGHANISTAN is in all but name an American colony. "The Soviet press has repeatedly charged that Americans were building strategic roads and conducting military surveys on the pretext of economic development programmes," Mr. Natarajan tells us. The Christian Science Monitor admitted that "Increasing American interest in Afghanistan results mainly from political and strategic considerations......Afghanistan's recent history has not been marked by strong Soviet pressure......Moreover, no organized Communist Party or left-wing group has emerged in Afghanistan......Yet the Afghan government feels that it needs outside help in order to counteract Russian influence."

And the New York Times added: "Two weeks of intensive questioning brought forth no evidence of unusual activity by Soviet interests in Kabul ......Nevertheless, some foreign diplomats expressed apprehension at possible future concern by the Soviet Union in the country......" This sort of thing is similar to having a man beat his wife because he dreamed she was unfaithful.

INTRIGUE is the order of the day when it comes to US intelligence and propaganda—goings-on that would be more fitting in colorful adventure fiction than between the sober covers of a fact-disclosing book.

For example, there is the case of the US diplomat, Douglas S. Mackiernan, who directed espionage and sabotage in China's Sinkiang province just before the Kuomintang was driven out in late 1949, a man who gained experience by organizing provocative incidents on the borders of the Mongolian People's Republic in 1947. A British consul and the Indian government were involved in his attempt to escape into India.

During the second world war US airmen made "forced landings" in Tibet, and a scientific expedition sponsored by the National Geographic Society was sent to Nepal where it was mixed up in a deal swapping lamas and kings. So it went, with plots and counter-plots and US diplomats, radio instructors, butterfly-chasers, and photographers "escaping" across the Himalayas.

On February 27, 1951, Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk, testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said: "We have a particularly difficult problem about getting information out of Tibet......We have tried to get......visitors there ......Our sources of information are indirect, such as from the Indians and other bits of information which is coming out."

American intelligence and propaganda are well served in India by thousands of diplomats, newspapermen, businessmen, explorers, Point Four experts, students, tourists and missionaries. There are also the armed forces, technical missions, foundations and the National Geographical Society printing maps on a large scale.

US newspapers and magazines are distributed free in India, and An Outline of American History was designed for use in Indian schools. There are cheap books containing violent anti-Soviet propaganda; there are the radio and the movies and other miscellaneous means of American propaganda.

THE sum total of Mr. Natarajan's book is to bring forth a number of important truths about US-Indian relations: The supposed philanthropic interest in India and her movement for independence on the part of the US is a cover for taking over the Indian economy while the country's leaders stand idly by and the nation remains an unindustrialized agrarian hinterland for foreign encroachment.

Mr. Natarajan believes that the forces ~~of~~ the center, the small capitalists and the intellectuals, must play a strong part in throwing off US imperialism. One thing is certain: the Indian people themselves must and will reclaim their freedom.

The American government will never give the country back to the Indians.

Report to Readers

Spring Triply Welcomed

THE arrival of spring this year was emphatically announced as Western and Orthodox calendars agreed on which Sunday was Easter (they're usually about a week apart), while the old Chinese festival of Ching Ming was observed on the same week end.

While we didn't get out to "sweep" any tombs, as is the old custom on Ching Ming, we did manage to take in two Easter eve services in local churches. First, we went to the combined Protestant service, held in one of the larger downtown churches. Singing several of the regular Easter favorites, the mixed choir of about 200, including a number of soloists, performed extremely well.

As the Protestant service ended at 9:30 and the Orthodox service didn't start until well on toward midnight, we had ample time to do a little late shopping for chocolate Easter eggs and cross town to the main Orthodox Cathedral which, with its huge onion-shaped azure blue dome, has long been a landmark in uptown Shanghai.

Being early arrivals we stayed only for about an hour and then left to make room for the late comers who were lining up outside the main door. Not unlike the Roman Catholic service—although rather more elaborate—the program also included a good bit of singing.

Both services, incidentally, were extremely well attended. Admission to the Protestant service was by ticket only and every seat was filled, including the folding chairs in the side aisles and the entire balcony, where even the seats behind the pillars were occupied. The Orthodox Cathedral was also pretty well filled, although not so jammed, as the practice is for people to come and go during the entire service. (There are no pews so everyone stands, with quite a bit of general movement going on all the time as worshippers walk about placing candles before the pictures of the various saints.)

CHING MING is always a sign that spring has truly arrived as many go to the country during the week end and return with willow branches upon which the leaves are just beginning to bud out.

As is often the case when a new society is established, many of the old practices and customs die out, others persist unchanged, while some continue but develop new meaning and content. In the past Ching Ming was the time for the properly brought up sons and daughters to pay respect to their forebears by tidying up (sweeping) the tombs. Today, while this is still pretty much the case, especially in the countryside, it is also becoming a time for paying visits to the graves of national heroes who have made outstanding contributions to the people and country, particularly those who were martyred by the despotic regimes of the past.

This year all school children got Friday off and, from the appearance of the streets, practically every child in town must have made at least one trip to the country during the three-day week end. During the morning rush hour, street cars and buses, which usually travel pretty light on the outbound trip, were packed with singing youngsters, while in the afternoon the reverse was true. Even trucks were pressed into service, while large groups of Young Pioneers made the trip on foot, marching gaily through the streets with their red kerchiefs and pennants.

Apparently they also took the opportunity to get in a little practical nature study and recreation as most groups seemed well supplied with butterfly nets, volley and soccer balls and various other types of outing and sporting equipment.

As is usual, the weather held up excellently for the week end, thus not detracting from the prestige of the old Chinese calendar and the ancients who named the occasion Ching Ming—Clear and Bright.

Report to Readers . . . .

Popularizing the Marriage Law

A FEW months ago we noted in this section that every time a new national movement is launched, the *Review's* contributors all sit down and write us about how it is going in their home towns. This is exactly what is happening now, as the month-long campaign to popularize the marriage law is drawing to a close.

A right fair proportion of our daily mail is made up of such reports, as both regular and irregular contributors, as well as letter-to-the-editor writers, are busy filling us in. One of the more complete reports came from *Review* contributor P. Y. Wang who, on his way back to Peking from Lhasa, has broken his trip with a lengthy stop-over in Chengtu, capital of Szechuen province. Like many others received recently, his article, which appears on page 78 of this issue, deals with the problem of widows remarrying, a thing unheard of in old China.

The ancient ban on widows remarrying has doomed countless thousands of women to unhappy, thwarted lives through the years. In the old days it was often customary to arrange hasty weddings for unmarried sons who were on the point of death, so that they would not leave this world without having at least formally founded a family. As a result of this practice many young girls were doomed to unhappy widowhood—for the rest of their lives—within a few days, sometimes within hours, of their marriage.

One of the more touching accounts of what the marriage law has meant to older people was sent in by a girl student at Northwestern University in Sian, her first contribution to the *Review*. Wang Suo-yan was a 38 year-old widow who lived in the small village of Hua San in Shensi province. Left penniless by her husband who died some years ago, she managed to keep herself going in pre-liberation days by spinning thread on an old fashioned spinning wheel.

After liberation land reform came to her village and she received a small piece of farmland and her life improved. As is the new custom in the countryside, the able-bodied pitch in during planting and harvest season to help out widows, widowers, the sick, families of army men and others whose labor power is below normal. One of those who came to help Wang Suo-yan was Re Chi-me, a disabled soldier who had lost his hands during the anti-Japanese war and who was living as a pensioner in the Northwest Army Sanitorium.

Re and the other disabled people's heroes who insisted upon joining in the work despite their physical handicaps made a great impression upon Wang Suo-yan and following the harvest, when she had a little spare time, she began dropping by the sanitorium every now and then to help the men with their sewing. She and Re struck up a warm friendship and, in return for her helping him with his mending, he began to teach her to read and write.

The upshot was that they got married. While this might not seem such a surprising development to our foreign readers, it illustrates a major change in rural China where such a thing was not even thought about a few years ago.

A Contemporary of James Monroe

WHEN working on their regular articles, the *Review's* contributors frequently run across other stories which lead them off on an entirely new track. Not infrequently these side issues and incidental characters turn out to be the main story. Sometimes, although not suitable for a major article, they are too good to keep to ourselves.

This is what happened last month to Max Wilkinson, an animal husbandryman from New Zealand now working in Lanchow, when he turned up the story of Ma Ju-Su-Li, a spry 129 year-old Moslem who readily recalls from personal experience things which most of us know—if we know at all—from history books.

When Ma was born, James Monroe was president of the United States, the War of 1812 was a fresh memory and China was a vast, highly developed empire governed by an emperor who sat on the Dragon Throne in Peking.

Report to Readers . . . .

Ma remembers clearly and can give a detailed eyewitness account of the time the Ch'ing Dynasty general Chu Chung-t'ang instituted a reign of terror in Kansu, slaughtering thousands of Moslems. Moslem men, afraid to be seen in the streets, hid in their homes, while their womenfolk went to Chu and begged for mercy on their knees. All this happened four score years ago!

When the Kuomintang was about to press gang several members of Ma's family, the old man—then 111—led his sons and grandsons to another district where they hid out for three years. This was a difficult time as even work as day laborers was hard to find and the men lived mostly by begging. When they returned home, the local Moslem warlord-dictator vent his fury on them by stripping their home of everything of value.

Looking back, Ma says the first 125 years were the hardest. Until he was 100 he was the family's leading breadwinner, working in the fields from dawn to dark almost every day. Born in a poor peasant family, he experienced virtually every kind of oppression—heavily taxed by the government, cheated by the landlord-gentry and robbed by the money-lenders.

Today, he is heaped with honors and extended the most solicitous care by his neighbors and the government. Even the head of the regional government came to call in person to inquire as to his needs. The doctor at the local health clinic pays him a visit twice a month for a complete check-up on his physical condition.

He is deeply moved by this care and attention; such things were unheard of in the old days. The only complaint patriarch Ma makes is that folks are a bit too solicitous and will not let him work as much as he would like. He still supplies the family with all the firewood it needs and does a little light work in the fields. However, the family keeps too close a watch on him, old Ma complains with a laugh, pointing out for example how his grandson practically pulled him off the ladder one day as he was climbing up on the roof to spread some grass to dry.

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